THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

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EDITORIAL NOTE.

The Committee of the United Society of Chemists and Druggists are organizing a strong opposition to the Medical Council. They have already called forth some important protests against the proposed Medical Bill, as will be seen from the reports of the numerous trade meetings which occupy so much space in our present number. The General Act of Incorporation suggested by the Society is regarded with great favour by the general body of the trade. .

We have much pleasure in laying before our readers a special report of the meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, held at Newcastle on the 2nd inst. The constitution of this new scientific Association is evidently copied from that of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Its objects are admirable, and its rules are well adapted for carrying them out. We cannot help thinking, however, that a few non-Pharmaceutists might have been chosen as officers. An association hoping to include all Chemists and Druggists desirous of promoting Pharmaceutical Science, ought certainly to have taken one of its General Secretaries from the general body of the trade.

THE BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

[From our own Reporter.]

The meeting for the purpose of organizing the above Association was held at Baker's Hotel, Newcastle, on Wednesday, September 2, 1863. The chair was occupied by H. Dean, Esq., F.L.S., of Clapham

Various parts of the kingdom were well represented by gentlemen present. From London there were Professor Bentley, F.L.S.; J. Attfield, Ph.D., F.C.S.; Mr. Barford, Mr. Wood, Mr. Symons, and Mr. S. Gale. From Liverpool, Dr. Edwards. From Bradford, Dr. Parkinson and Mr. Rimmington. From Hull, Mr. Metcalf. From Norwich, Mr. F. Sutton, F.C.S. From Glasgow, Mr. E. C. C. Stanford, F.C.S. From Leeds, Mr. Reynolds, F.C.S. From Weymouth, Mr. T. B. Groves, F.C.S. And others from Newcastle and neighbouring towns.

The Chairman having read from the *Pharmaceutical Journal* the invitation in compliance with which they had met together, congratulated the meeting upon their having mustered so well from different parts of the country, and then called upon Mr. Brady to act as Provisional Secretary, and read the correspondence relative to the meeting.

Mr. Brady explained that, according to the invitation as printed in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, it was his duty to send particulars of the time and place of the meeting to all who sent him their addresses and intimated their desire to take part in the Conference; but in case any had overlooked the fact that it was only undertaken to send the circulars to those who expressed their intention of being present, he had also sent to many gentlemen known to take an interest in Pharmaceutical science, and had received numerous communications in reply. He then read extracts from letters received from Professor Redwood, Mr. Hills (Vice-President of the Pharmaceutical Society), Messrs. D. Hanbury, Mackay, Atherton, Gissing, Wilkinson, Hollier, W. Graham, Carr, Abraham, W. Proctor, jun., and J. C. Pooley, all expressing their approbation and sending good wishes for the success of the undertaking. The last-named gentleman said he had consulted with Dr. Schacht and others in his neighbourhood, and was requested to say that Bristol united with Bath in the desire that the next Conference should be held in the latter town in connexion with the British Association Meeting for 1864.

The Chairman said, with such numerous and cordial promises of support, there could be no doubt of the success of the effort which they were making to establish an Annual Conference, which, if carried out, would promote not only their own interests as tradesmen, but would effect a public good. It would raise the position of the Chemist in public estimation; but this could only be maintained by an effort on their part to be worthy of the same, from a conscientious performance of their duties. Much good had been done by the Pharmaceutical Society, but not all that some of its members had expected from it: indeed, it was difficult—impossible, he might say—to meet the various requirements of a general body. Pharmaceutists as a class were not rich men; their time and money were valuable to them, and their personal attention to their businesses was essential: consequently, they could not attend frequently at London meetings, but an annual gathering which might be said to come home to them was very likely to do good. We were too apt to work only for money, and a visit at any place from those who were earnest in the pursuit of science would always be a useful stimulus to others to follow their example. Ignorance in our own body was our great difficulty, and we must be content to progress slowly, so long as we are surely removing that source of our rottenness, and planting in its place a love of knowledge, truth, and precession in all our dealings. The Conference, he said, would be essentially provincial in its operation, and there was abundant scientific work most advantageously conducted by provincial men; such as a comparison of the properties of medicinal herbs grown in different localities, the influence of soil, climate, &c., and comparison of the wild herbs with the same under cultivation. He said he could not help regarding cultivated herbs with some suspicion, cultivation being so apt to increase their wholesomeness.

Professor Bentley then moved that it is desirable to form a British Pharmaceutical Conference, to hold annual meetings of those interested in Pharmacy. He said all meetings must do good which tended to promote good fellowship among the trade, especially if, at the same time, knowledge was diffused for the general good. He alluded to the British Association, and expressed the gratification he felt from the social pleasures, and intercourse with others interested in the same pursuits, as well as the gaining of new scientific information. He coincided with Mr. Dean's remarks regarding wild and cultivated herbs; the effect of manure was to increase the nutritive portion of plants, and so to dilute their active principles; though, if the whole subject were well understood, we should probably be able so to cultivate plants as to increase the proportion of such constituents as we desired.

Dr. Attfield seconded the motion, and said he did so with pleasure, and confidence in the utility and success of the new Association; and he could add to the evidence of the general interest which was felt in the movement, by recounting the letters he had received conveying good wishes. He enumerated letters from Messrs. Banner, Barnes, Booth, Bottle, Draper, Edmonds, Ince, Jackson, Mercer, Randal, Robbins, Wiggin, Young, and Wood; and he had no doubt aid might be counted upon from these and many others. He quite agreed with the Chairman and the mover of the resolution in thinking that country members would find useful employment for their leisure in investigating various matters connected with the indigenous plants. Their essential oils alone would afford scope for labour which would be usefully and creditably spent in investigating their composition, properties, uses, and the circumstances which influenced their production. The same might be said of the alkaloids, which were as yet very imperfectly known.

A Member inquired if it was intended to confine the Conference to members of the Pharmaceutical Society.

The Secretary replied that it was not. Indeed, there were several gentlemen present who were not members, and were not eligible to become members of that Society. They hoped to include all Chemists and Druggists who desired to promote Pharmaceutical science.

A conversation followed, from which it appeared that it was the general desire to admit all who were interested in the advancement of Pharmacy, whether they were Chemists, Druggists, Physicians, herbalists, or drug-grinders.

The motion having been carried unanimously, the Chairman called upon the Secretary to read the draft of constitution and rules which had been drawn out.

Mr. Brady having read the draft through, said it was only very roughly drawn out, and suggested the discussion of each clause separately, that amendments might be considered.

In the debate upon the clauses, there was no more difference of opinion than sufficed to show the interest taken by the members in having the constitution and rules in a good working condition; in most cases the alterations adopted having for their object a more clear expression, rather than an alteration of the original intentions. Of those which were more materially altered, the desire was always shown to promote harmonious working upon liberal principles; and we are glad to add that in all cases they were unanimously adopted.

A list of officers was then moved by Dr. Parkinson, seconded by Mr. Metcalfe, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Barford moved that the next Conference be held at Bath, according to the invitation received from Mr. Rowley and his friends in that district. Mr. Wood seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Howson, seconded by Mr. Grieves, a Committee on Adulteration was elected.

The Chairman said this committee would have to work with great caution, and to exercise their good sense, as it would not do to institute a censorship, or to take any proceedings which might be felt inquisitorial. But the existence of such a committee, and the knowledge that they would annually report upon the quality of drugs coming under their notice, would itself do much to prevent adulteration.

Dr. Attfield moved, and Dr. Edwards seconded, a resolution, that subjects submitted to individuals or committees for investigation should be reported to the general committee fourteen days prior to the annual meeting.

Mr. Reynolds, who had been elected one of the secretaries, then took the names of the gentlemen present, and their subscription as members.

Professor Bentley moved, and Mr. Gale seconded, a vote of thanks to Messrs. Reynolds, Brady, and Dr. Attfield, for their valuable services in promoting the formation of the Conference.

Dr. Attfield acknowledged, and moved a vote of thanks to the Chair, which brought the morning's business to a close.

A few other matters of a scientific nature, it was stated, would afford them occasion for meeting together again in the evening; and Dr. Edwards suggested that the proceedings should terminate with a supper, as the best way of making acquaintance with one another.

THE EVENING MEETING.

The members met at the Turf Hotel at eight o'clock. Mr. Dean, who had been elected President of the Conference, filled the chair, and opened proceedings by calling upon Mr. B. S. Proctor to read a paper on Weights and Measures.

Mr. Proctor's paper (which may be considered an elaboration of an article from his pen which appeared in our pages two months ago) gave a few words upon the origin of weights and measures, pointed out their tendency to undergo constant changes, the general result of which was to produce a slow improvement. He said, systems must always continue to change so long as man was a progressive being; and while we were in contemplation of a change, we should keep in view further changes which must follow. There might be several changes, all of them being for the better; but of these some would promote, and some might render more difficult, the improvements which another generation or another century would demand. He pointed out the relative merits of the octavial, decimal and duodecimal systems: he considered the decimal was in the abstract inferior to either of the other, and attributed its popularity to its coincidence with the system of arithmetic with which we are familiar. He said he considered the decimal system would be a great improvement upon the want of system at present existing in Britain. But it had many faults, some of which he drew attention to, and concluded by pointing out some things which might be done to diminish the inconvenience of the change, if the metric system should be adopted.

The President said, Mr. Proctor had drawn attention to various points of great practical importance, and invited discussion.

Mr. Wood understood the French were tired of attempting to make the metric system universal, and "the people" were still against it.

Mr. Sutton said he had used it for several years in his laboratory, and found it very convenient for scientific purposes.

Mr. Rimmington thought that the attempt shown in the Weights and Measures Bill, to combine vulgar fractions with the decimal system, would only make confusion.

Mr. Mawson thought the decimal system was sure to be adopted, and our consideration should be directed to perfecting it, and facilitating its introduction.

Dr. Edwards strongly objected to new weights having old names attached to them.

Mr. Reynolds explained the part taken by the Leeds Chemists' Association, which suggested that the metric system should be adopted in Pharmacy so as to give it a trial amongst an intelligent class of men.

Mr. Brady supported what Dr. Edwards had said, and objected to French names being used in England.

The President explained the advantage of legalizing the use of metric weights for transactions with foreign nations, thanked Mr. Proctor for his paper, and called upon Mr. Reynolds, who had a few words to say to them about some adulterations he had met with.

Mr. Reynolds said there were four cases of glaring adulteration which had recently come under his notice:—Tartaric acid containing Rochelle salt to the extent of 12 to 17 per cent. Tubes of chloride of gold containing only 5 grains of pure gold in the 15-grain tube, instead of 7 grains, which was the legitimate quantity. Bottles of an article labelled Howard's sulphate of quinine (not Howard's own label), which proved to be sulphate of quinidine. And a sample of powdered opium containing 25 per cent. of inorganic matter, besides other impurities.

Messrs. Groves and Mawson thanked Mr. Reynolds for drawing attention to the subject, and thought it highly important to have such abominable frauds exposed.

The company then adjourned to supper, which was waiting for them in another room. We cannot do more than mention the principal toasts.

The President gave them "The Queen and Royal Family;" "The memory of Jacob Bell;" "The health of the Pharmaceutical Conference," responded to by Mr. Brady; "The Pharmaceutical Society." Dr. Edwards, Vice-President, responded in a humorous speech.

Mr. Reynolds gave them "Newcastle Friends," to which Mr. Mawson replied.

"The Non-Pharmaceutists" was proposed by Mr. Brady, and responded to at considerable length by Mr. Joseph Beck and Professor Archer.

CONSTITUTION OF THE BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

I. This Association shall be called the British Pharmaceutical Conference, and its objects shall be the following:—

1. To hold an Annual Conference of those engaged in the practice or interested in the advancement of Pharmacy, with the view of promoting their friendly reunion, and increasing their facilities for the cultivation of Pharmaceutical Science.

2. To determine what questions in Pharmaceutical Science demand investigation, and, where practicable, to allot them to individuals or committees, to report thereon.

3. To maintain uncompromisingly the principle of purity in medicine.

4. To form a bond of union amongst the various Associations established for the advancement of Pharmacy, by receiving from them delegates to the Annual Conferences.

II. Membership in the Conference shall not be considered as conferring any guarantee of professional competency.

RULES.

1. Any person desiring to become a member of the Conference shall be nominated in writing by two members, and balloted for at a general meeting of the members; two-thirds of the votes given being needful for his election. If the application be made during the recess, the Executive Committee may elect the member by a unanimous vote. Every member shall sign an obligation to conform to the rules of the Conference for the time being.

2. The subscription shall be 5s. annually, which shall be due in advance upon the 1st of July.

3. Any member whose subscription shall be more than two years in arrear after written application, shall be liable to be removed from the list by the Executive Committee. Members may be expelled for improper conduct by a majority of three-fourths of those voting at a general meeting, provided that fourteen days' notice of such intention of expulsion has been sent by the Secretary to each member of Conference.

4. Every Association established for the advancement of Pharmacy shall, during its recognition by the Conference, be entitled to send delegates to the Annual Meeting.

5. The officers of the Conference shall be a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, two General Secretaries and one Local Secretary, and nine other Members, who shall collectively constitute the Executive Committee. Three members of this Executive Committee to retire annually by ballot, the remainder being eligible for re-election. They shall be elected at each Annual Meeting by ballot of those present.

6. At each Conference it shall be determined at what place and time to hold that of the next year.

7. Two members shall be elected by the Conference to audit the Treasurer's accounts; such audited accounts to be presented annually.

8. The Executive Committee shall present a report of proceedings annually.

9. These rules shall not be altered except at an annual meeting of the members, notice of such alteration having been sent with the circular calling the meeting.

OFFICERS FOR 1863-4.

President.
H. Dean, Esq., F.L.S.

Vice-Presidents.
Dr. Edwards, F.C.S.; Prof. Redwood, Ph.D., F.C.S.; Prof. Bentley, F.L.S.; R. W. Giles.

Treasurer.
H. B. Brady, F.L.S., F.C.S.

General Secretaries.
R. Reynolds, F.C.S.; J. Attfield, Ph.D., F.C.S.

Local Secretary, Bath.—J. C. Pooley.

Committee.
D. Hanbury; B. S. Proctor; A. F. Haselden; F. B. Groves, F.C.S.; S. Gale; F. Sutton, F.C.S.; E. Wood; J. P. Tylee; W. D. Savage.

Adulteration Committee.
Messrs. Sutton, Rimmington, Groves, Attfield, Reynolds, Proctor.

NEW REMEDIES.

CIMICIFUGA RACEMOSA.

SYNONYMS.—*Actæa racemosa* (Linn. and Willd.); *Macrotys racemosa* (Eaton and Raff); *Actæa monogyna* (Walt.); *Cimicifuga Serpentaria* (Pursh); *Christophoriana racemosa* (Tourn.); and *Botrophis Serpentaria* and *racemosa* of some other authors. Black Cohosh, Black Snake-root, Bug-bane, Squaw-root, &c. &c.

The generic name of this plant is derived from *cimex*, a bug, and *fugo*, to drive away;

it being the popular belief that the fœtid leaves are extremely offensive to these insects. Its common appellation, Bug-bane, is also obviously derived from the same source. Another species of the same genus, the *Cimicifuga fœtida*, a native of Siberia, is reputed, in that country, to possess similar properties. The name of Snake-root was probably given to it from its supposed efficacy in curing snake-bites, for which purpose it is used by the Indians, although it is stated to possess no such efficacy. Others think that it was so named from its resemblance to Serpentary, or Virginian Snake-root. It was termed Squaw-root from the circumstance of its being used by the Indian women as a parturifacient in the early settlement of the country.

The rhizome of this plant, commonly but improperly called the root, has long enjoyed great popularity in the Western States of America as a remedy in consumption, bronchitic affections, rheumatism, dropsy, and many other disorders,—and has been held in great esteem by the class designated "eclectics," and by the herbalists. It is said to have been first introduced into regular practice in America by Dr. Garden of Virginia, about forty years ago, as a medicine of great value in tubercular consumption; and since that time has enjoyed considerable reputation in that country as a remedy in various diseases, and has been for many years officinal in the Pharmacopœia of the late United States, under the name of *Cimifuga*.

Although it has enjoyed so high a reputation for many years in America, its introduction into this country as a remedial agent has been comparatively recent, and therefore it is entitled to be classed as one of our "New Remedies." It was introduced to the notice of our medical practitioners, if we remember rightly, about four years ago, by Dr. Simpson of Edinburgh, who spoke favourably of its properties as a remedial agent in chorea, rheumatism, and other affections. Since that time it has been held in considerable reputation, and will probably find a place in the forthcoming National Pharmacopœia.

BOTANY.—The *Actæa racemosa* is a tall, stately plant, belonging to the natural order *Ranunculaceæ*, the Ranunculus or Buttercup order. The rhizomes are perennial; the stem simple and herbaceous, rising from four to eight feet in height; the leaves large, and more or less divided in a ternate manner, with oblong-ovate leaflets, which are serrated toothed, or incised at their margins. The flowers are small, of a white colour, and arranged in a long terminal raceme, with occasionally one or two shorter racemes near its base; they bloom during the months of June and July. It is a native of North America, from Canada to Florida; growing in moist, shady, or mountainous woods, or in ground that has been recently cleared. The flowers and seeds have been used for medicinal purposes, but are inferior to the rhizome, which is considered to be in its greatest perfection in the autumn, after the ripening of the seeds and the decay of the tops, when, being most abundant in active principles, it should be collected. It should also be borne in mind that it becomes greatly deteriorated by long keeping, and should therefore be collected annually.

CHEMISTRY.—The rhizome is of a dark brown, almost black colour, externally, and whitish internally. It possesses a very peculiar and rather disagreeable odour, which, however, is not very powerful; its taste is bitter, herbaceous, and somewhat astringent, leaving a slight sense of acrimony; it yields its virtues to boiling water, but more readily to alcohol According to the analysis of Mr. Tilghman of Philadelphia, it contains gum, starch, sugar, resin, wax, fatty matter, tannin, and gallic acid; a black colouring matter, chlorophyll, lignin, salts of potassa, lime, magnesia, and iron. One of the so-called "concentrated preparations," termed *Cimicifugin* or *Macrotin*, is obtained from it, and is largely prepared in the establishment of Messrs. Tilden and Co. of New York. It appears to be a resinoid extract, and possesses, to some extent, the active properties of the rhizome. It is highly probable, however, that the latter owes part of its activity to some volatile principle which is impaired by being kept for any length of time.

ADULTERATIONS.—Professor Bentley, in a long and elaborate article on this plant in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*,* writes, "The only roots and rhizomes which, I think, would be likely in this country to be confounded with Cimicifuga, are "*black hellebore* and *aconite* ;" and he appends three well-arranged tables of their "general and chemical distinctive characters :" but as these are too lengthy for insertion in our limited space, we must refer those of our readers who desire further information on this point to Professor Bentley's excellent article.

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* Vol. ii., 2nd Series, pp. 463, 464, 465.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES.—This remedy is said to possess an undoubted influence over the nervous system, and has been successfully used in chorea, acute rheumatism, epilepsy, nervous excitability, asthma, delirium tremens, pertussis, and many spasmodic affections. In febrile diseases it frequently produces diaphoresis and diuresis, and its tonic and antiperiodic virtues are said to be well marked in remittent and intermittent fevers. It has also been found useful in other febrile and exanthematous diseases, especially among children where there exists a strong tendency to cerebral difficulty. It is stated to uniformly lessen the force and frequency of the pulse, to soothe pain and allay irritability, and lessen the disposition to cerebral irritation and congestion. It is stated by some of the "eclectics" to seldom fail in speedily and powerfully inciting the expulsive action of the uterus, and may be substituted for ergot; and that it is effectual in allaying the general excitement of the nervous system, and relieving the pains which succeed labour. The so-called "concentrated preparation" Cimicifugin, or Macrotin, is tonic, alterative, nervine, and antiperiodic, with an especial affinity for the uterus; and it is stated to be free from the narcotic properties possessed by the rhizome, and therefore less liable to produce headache or giddiness than the tincture.

Dr. Barton employed Cimicifuga in putrid sore-throat as an astringent, which property is due to the gallic acid which it contains. Professor Chapman* ranks this article under the head of expectorants; calling it also narcotic, antispasmodic, diaphoretic, and, in large doses, emetic. Given so as to sensibly affect the system, he states that it first causes some nausea, followed by greater freedom of expectoration, and more or less relaxation of the surface, with slight nervous tremors and vertiginous affections; the pulse being considerably lowered, and remaining so for some time: and he states that "the reason he ranks the Cimicifuga among expectorants is, the reputation it has acquired in pulmonary diseases, especially asthma and consumption." Other authorities, however, consider that it possesses no expectorant properties.

Dr. Davis,† of Chicago, confirms the experience of Dr. Chapman, and adds—"In large doses it produces vertigo, dimness of vision, and a depression of the pulse, which continues for some time." He could not, like previous observers, detect any perceptible increase in any of the secretions, nor the manifestation of any stimulating qualities. He prescribed it in cases of acute rheumatism, in doses of from one to two drachms every two hours, until the effects were manifested, and states that, "after much experience, he has no more doubt of its efficacy in the early stage of acute rheumatism, than he has of the power of vaccination as a preventive of smallpox."

Dr. Hildreth, of Ohio,‡ found it, when given in large doses, to produce vertigo, impaired vision, nausea and vomiting, and a reduction of the circulation,—but observed no alarming effects from very large quantities." He is reported to have employed it with the happiest effects in conjunction with iodine in phthisis pulmonalis, particularly in its incipient stages: it is stated to check the diarrhœa and night-sweats, while, at the same time, it promotes the appetite and the assimilating functions.

Dr. F. U. Johnson found the most acute and severe cases of rheumatism yield to its influence, not only more speedily, but more perfectly, and with less danger of metastasis to other organs than to any other form of treatment. He also found it very efficacious in the treatment of chorea.

Dr. John King claims the merit of having discovered the value of Cimicifuga as a remedy in acute rheumatism, and he describes the resinoid, Cimicifugin, as tonic, alterative, nervine and antiperiodic, and as having a special affinity for the uterus.

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* Tilden's Mat. Med., vol. iii., p. 385. † Trans. Amer. Med. Association, vol. i., p. 352.
‡ U. S. Disp., 10th ed., p. 217.

The late Dr. Physick of New York, Professor Wood, and Dr. Jesse Young of Pennsylvania, found it very beneficial in the treatment of chorea; and since then its value as a remedial agent in this disease has been confirmed by Drs. Kirkbride, Lee, Lindsey, Otto, and others.

Dr. Simpson, of Edinburgh, states that he had found it in his own case repeatedly cure an attack of lumbago with wonderful rapidity; and in a case of anomalous and severe chorea of long standing he gave it with excellent effect, although the patient had been previously treated, both in France and this country, with zinc, iron, arsenic, and all the usual remedies employed in this malady. He also reports the experience of several American physicians as to the value of its effects in acute rheumatism, cutting short the disease before the eighth or tenth day; the drug acting as a simple antidote to the rheumatic poison, and curing without diuresis, diaphoresis, or any other discharge.

Dr. E. G. Wheeler found it useful in several cases of severe and protracted cough, especially in the chronic cough or bronchitis of old people. We are informed by a writer on this remedy in our contemporary *The Lancet*,* that "a recent report from a metropolitan hospital, of upwards of four hundred cases of acute rheumatism, states that the duration of the disease was forty-nine days,"—and he remarks, "Surely if a remedy claiming to have the power to cut the disease short on the eighth or tenth day be at hand, it ought not to be ignored or neglected."

PRINCIPAL PREPARATIONS AND DOSES.—The following preparations are made by Messrs. Tilden and Co., and are enumerated in their Book of Formulæ, with the doses appended:—

Cimicifugin, or *Macrotin*, gr. j. to grs. vj.; but it is generally given in doses of from gr. j. to grs. ij. in this country. *Fluid Extract*, from ʒss. to ʒij. *Tincture* (made from the fluid extract ℥iv., diluted alcohol Oj.), from ʒiiss. to ʒvij. The tincture can also be prepared by macerating f. ℥iv. of the bruised rhizome in f. ℥xvj. of diluted alcohol (sp. gr. 0·935) for fourteen days, and then pressing and straining, or by the process of percolation. According to Dr. Wood, the dose of this should be from ʒj. to ʒiv., three or four times a day, in chronic cases, for adults, and proportionably reduced for children. Dr. Davis gives from gtts. xxx. to gtts. lx. in acute rheumatism every two hours, until its effects are manifest on the system. *Solid Extract*, from grs. iv. to grs. viij.—Messrs. Tilden and Co. also give formulæ for *a Compound Fluid Extract*, dose from ʒss. to ʒj.; *Compound Tincture*, from ʒss. to ʒj.; *Syrup*, from ʒss. to ʒj.; *Pills of Cimicifugin*, *Pills of Extract of Cimicifuga*, *Compound Pills of Cimicifuga*, *Black Cohosh Compound*, and *Syrup of Black Cohosh Compound*. A decoction, made by boiling ℥j. of the bruised rhizome in Oj. of water for a short time, has been much used in doses of from f. ℥j. to f. ℥ij.; but it is considered to be less active than the tincture and other preparations. From O ss. to a O j. of the decoction may be taken daily without inconvenience. The dose of the powdered rhizome is from ℈j. to ʒj.

SCIENCE

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

PROFESSOR WILLIAMSON ON THE PRESENT STATE OF CHEMICAL SCIENCE.

THE proceedings of Section B. (Chemical Science) were opened by the following instructive and suggestive address from the president, Professor Alex. W. Williamson:—

"Before the Section enters upon the business for which it meets, viz., the consideration of Papers and Reports upon Special Branches of Chemistry and the Chemical Arts, it may not be unacceptable to cast a brief and cursory glance at some few topics illustrative of the tendencies of chemical science during the last few years, and of its applications to some of the manufacturing arts. One of the most remarkable features of the progress of our science is the rapid rate at which materials have been accumulating by the labours of chemists in the so-called organic department of the science. The study of the transformation of organic bodies leads to the discovery of new acids, new bases, new alcohols, new ethers, and at a constantly increasing rate which is truly wonderful. Some of these new substances are found to possess properties which can at once be applied to practical manufacturing purposes, such as dyeing, &c., but the greater number of them remain in our laboratories, and museums, and text-books, and serve to teach us new instances of the combining forces of matter. The influence of this rapid growth of materials upon our knowledge of principles and laws of combination which constitute the science of chemistry has been simultaneous with the discoveries of the materials themselves, and the material and intellectual progress of organic chemistry have gone on so regularly hand in hand that it is impossible to say which has done most in helping the other. It is, accordingly, observed that the science has been simplified by every important addition to her materials; instead of isolated unmeaning substances, with formulæ so complex and unintelligible as to be troublesome to chemists and truly distressing to learners, we have now definite and intelligible families of bodies of which the members are most harmoniously united together by some law of composition, and whose connexion with neighbouring families is similarly clear and satisfactory. New discoveries are constantly coming in to fill up the gaps which still disfigure our growing system. In mineral or inorganic chemistry there is not the same scope for discovery at present, inasmuch as the elements which belong to it do not combine in those numerous proportions which occur among the chief elements of organic bodies. But yet mineral chemistry has not been standing still, for even the heavy metals, most remote in their properties from those volatile and unstable substances of organic chemistry, have been got in many instances to combine together, and the organic metallic bodies thus formed have not only proved most valuable and powerful agents of decomposition, but they have served as a connecting link between the two branches of chemical science. A system of classification of elements is now coming into use, in which the heavy metals arrange themselves harmoniously with the elements of organic bodies, and in accordance with the principles which were discovered by a study of organic compounds. It is now many years since the attention of chemists was directed by a French professor to some inconsistencies which had crept into our system of atomic weights. Gerhardt showed that the principles which were adopted in fixing the atomic weight of elementary bodies generally required us to adopt for oxygen, carbon, and sulphur, numbers twice as great as those generally in use for those elements. The logic of his arguments was unanswerable, and yet Gerhardt's conclusions gained but few adherents. It is to be observed that for some years Gerhardt represented chemical reactions by so-called synoptic formulæ, which took no account of the existence of organic radicles. These synoptic formulæ represent in the simplest terms the result of a chemical reaction, but they give no physical image of the progress by which the reaction is brought about. The introduction, in this country, of the water type in connexion with polyatomic as well as monatomic radicles, was found to satisfy the requirements of the synoptic formulæ. Gerhardt was the first to adopt them from us. He gave, in his admirable 'Traité de Chimie Organique,' a system of organic chemistry on that plan, and his book has been of immense service to the development of our science. The extension of these principles to mineral chemistry had been commenced in the cases of the commonest acids and bases, but their general introduction met with difficulties, and something seemed wanting to their complete success. I must now travel southward for a short time, and ask you to accompany me to that sunny land of glorious memories, and to its southern dependency—the Island of Sicily. It was reserved for Professor Cannizzaro, of the University of Palermo, to show us how the remainder of the knot could be untied. He argued, upon physical as well as chemical grounds, that the atomic weight of many metals ought to be doubled, as well as those of oxygen, sulphur, and carbon. His conclusions are confirmed by the constitution of those organo-metallic bodies which I mentioned just now, and it certainly does seem to supply what was still wanting for the extension of our system of classification from the non-metallic elements to the heavy metals themselves. The elements are now arranged into two principal groups:—1st. Those of which each atom combines with an uneven number of atoms of chlorine or hydrogen. 2nd. Those of which each atom combines with an even number of atoms of chlorine or hydrogen. Like every classification founded upon nature, this one draws no absolute line, as some elements belong to both classes. The first group includes the monatomic elements of the chlorine family, the triatomic elements of the nitrogen family, hydrogen and the alkali metals, silver and gold, in all about eighteen elements. The usual atomic weights of these are retained. The usual atomic weights of all the other elements, biatomic, tetratomic, &c., are doubled. This second group includes the oxygen family, carbon, silicon, and the alkaline earths, the metals, zinc, iron, copper, lead, &c. Every step in our theoretical development of chemistry has served to consolidate and extend the atomic theory, but it is interesting to observe that the retention of that theory has involved the necessity of depriving it of the absolute character which it at first possessed. Organic compounds were long ago discovered containing atoms of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, in proportions far from simple; and the atomic theory must have been abandoned but for the discovery that the atomic, or rather molecular, weights of these compounds correspond invariably to entire numbers of the elementary atoms. We now use the term molecule for those groups which hold together during a variety of transformations, but which can be resolved into simpler constituents; whilst we receive the word atom for those particles which we cannot break up, and which there is no reason for believing that we ever shall break up. Amongst the most brilliant extensions of our means of observation have been the researches in spectrum analysis. The application of these beautiful methods to the investigation of minerals has already led to the discovery of three volatile metals which had previously escaped observation, whilst its extension to the investigation of the light which reaches our planet from the heavenly bodies has led to the recognition, in several of them, of elements identical, in this respect at least, with some of our elements in this earth. An eminent French chemist has recently taken occasion, in reporting the results of some researches on the new metal 'Thallium,' to volunteer insinuations against Mr. Crookes's claim to that discovery. M. Dumas considers it corroborative of his views that Mr. Crookes did not refer the consideration of his claims, on the first opportunity, to a jury of gentlemen, formed for examining products of manufacturing industry at the National Exhibition of 1862. I have felt it my duty to allude publicly to this proceeding, because it occurred in a report of a commission of the French Academy, published by the order of that distinguished body.* Before proceeding from the scientific and intellectual progress of chemistry, I must beg leave to refer briefly to the educational efforts of the progress. Little, indeed, would our conquests over nature avail us if they are only known to the systematic cultivators of science and only used by them; and, unless the popular dissemination of knowledge keeps pace with its extension, the chief fruits of that extension will be lost. It would be unjust to deny that some important steps have been taken of late years by various governing bodies in this country towards giving to experimental science a position in national education; but these steps are only the beginning of a reform in education which must go much farther in order to be effectual. In illustration of what has been done, I may mention the admission of chemistry and physics into the list of subjects of examination for various Government appointments, civil and military; but the small value which the framers of the schemes placed upon these sciences compared to mathematics is but too plainly shown by the small number of marks which they assign to the utmost recognized proficiency in them; so that the effect of the recognition is tantamount to saying—We can't help acknowledging these sciences, but we want to encourage the study of them as little as possible. The medical corporations, who influence the studies of the rising generation of practitioners by their examinations, have not only recognized the necessity of a thorough knowledge of chemistry, but many of them require the knowledge to be acquired in the lecture-room, and partly also in the laboratory. The University of London is expressly to be noticed for the beneficial influence which it has exerted in this direction in its medical examinations, but more particularly for the institution of new degrees of Bachelor and Doctor of Science, which acknowledges, for the first time in this country, the physical and natural sciences as entitled to equal recognition with classical and mathematical studies for purposes of general education. These influences have no doubt contributed materially to the introduction of chemical instruction, and even of practical chemistry, into junior schools, which has been going on so extensively of late years. It is, however, consolatory to observe that a more powerful influence than any of these is at work, viz., the popular appreciation of its real value, gradually raising physical science to the prominent place in national education which it is destined to occupy. If education is intended to prepare young people for a life of usefulness, in which their various faculties may be employed to the benefit of their fellow-men, and consequently to their own, there can be no doubt of the value of teaching them to observe, to recollect, to arrange the phenomena of the physical world, and to apply the knowledge and skill thus acquired to practical purposes. No phenomena that can be brought within the observation of everybody by inexpensive experiments are so simple in their nature, no reasonings more definite and tangible, or more easily controlled by special observations, than those of chemistry, and the science affords, probably, scope for a more thorough training of the various faculties of the mind than can be supplied to schools by any other means. Among the chemical arts much has been doing, but, as usual, in a quiet, undemonstrative way. First and foremost among improvements I must mention the introduction into one manufacture after another of those admirable furnaces invented by Mr. Siemens, and generally known as regenerative furnaces. Whether we consider them from the point of view of the economy of fuel, or whether as affording the means of attaining temperatures beyond the range of other furnaces, there can be no doubt of the immense value of this invention. Heat is the great source of power in almost all our dealings with inorganic matter, and I have not the slightest doubt that the power over heat given by these regenerative furnaces will revolutionize many a chemical art. The manufacture of iron, and its subsequent treatment for the removal of impurities, has been of late years the subject of many experiments. Various plans have been proposed for avoiding the injurious effects of the mineral impurities of our coal, by using gas for the reduction of the iron ores. In this country, however, the manufacture of cast-iron is carried on in such vast quantities, that changes in the processes must meet with great resistance. The laborious and expensive process of puddling hitherto adopted for burning out the carbon from cast-iron is being gradually superseded by one or other of the following:—either by treating the molten pigs with oxide of iron until the carbon is removed as carbonic oxide, or by

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* Jan. 8, 1862.

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* We take this opportunity of referring our readers to the correspondence relating to the discovery of Thallium, published in the *Philosophical Magazine* of July last, which conclusively proves that Mr. Crookes was prior to M. Lamy in every step of the discovery. Our contributor, Mr. C. W. Quin, is one of the witnesses on behalf of Mr. Crookes. He states that while acting as superintendent of Classes 2, 3, and 4 of the International Exhibition, he took M. Lamy and his friend M. Balard to Mr. Crookes's case, on the 7th of June, 1862, and showed them the specimens therein displayed, particularly pointing out the one marked "*metallic thallium*," and translating the label to them. Yet on the 23rd of June, in a paper read at the Académie des Sciences, M. Lamy had the coolness to assert that though Mr. Crookes had noticed the green band of thallium in the spectrum, he had not isolated the element or ascertained its metallic nature. Another witness is the printer of the labels, (Thallium, sulphate of thallium, nitrate of thallium, &c.,) which were delivered on or about April 25, 1862, whereas M. Lamy only claims to have isolated thallium in the interval between the 2nd and 15th of May following. The conduct of M. Dumas is not to be excused, for he must have been aware of Mr. Crookes's publication of metallic thallium at the Exhibition, when he supported the pretensions of his friend by the following remarks:—"No one could dispute that M. Lamy was the first to isolate thallium, and so to demonstrate that it was a true metal, and not a metalloid, as supposed by Mr. Crookes, who never obtained it uncombined and pure." We are glad that Professor Williamson has publicly referred to M. Dumas's insinuations against our clever, industrious, and modest countryman, who has made one of the most brilliant discoveries of modern times. We are glad to learn, moreover, that the attention of the scientific men assembled at Newcastle was directed to this discovery by a mass of thallium amounting to about a *quarter of a hundredweight*, prepared and exhibited by Mr. Crookes.—Ed. C. & D.

Bessemer's process of blowing air through the molten cast-iron. In either case it is desirable to add some carbon to the malleable iron in order to render it more fusible, and for this purpose the best material is the manganiferous carburet of iron, known by the name of 'Spiegeleisen,' of which enough is used to make a low steel with about ½ per cent. of carbon. One of the most interesting novelties in metallurgy is the manufacture of aluminium, now carried on for the sake chiefly of its alloy with copper, by the distinguished gentleman who holds the office of Mayor of Newcastle. The mechanical properties of this so-called aluminium bronze give it great value, and it seems likely to find much favour for its appearance. Mr. Bell has also rendered no small service to science by collecting and preparing a large quantity of that wonderful new metal, thallium. Among alloys, a variety of brass containing a small quantity of iron has recently attracted considerable attention. The alloy is by no means new, though hitherto known but to few persons. It combines tenacity with elasticity to a remarkable degree, and can be easily forged. Most of the members of the Section are probably aware of the admirable series of agricultural experiments which have been proceeding for the last twenty years, under the direction of Mr. Lawes of Rothampsted; yet many are probably unaware of the vast importance of the results already established by those experiments. Few things are perhaps more difficult than to conduct scientific experiments in any practical art, like farming, to find how the resources which science discovers can be profitably turned to account, or how the defects which theory points out in ordinary working processes can be profitably remedied. It is almost proverbial that the greater number of persons who attempt the introduction on their farms of plans suggested by abstract science, succeed only in finding how to lose money. It does indeed require a rare combination of enthusiasm with caution, of knowledge of theory with practical experience of the conditions of ordinary working, to carry such experiments to a definite and useful issue. Such rare combination of qualities has existed in Mr. Lawes; and when we recollect that by associating Dr. Gilbert with his labours he obtained the cooperation of an able and accomplished chemist, we have no longer reason to wonder that the result of twenty years' continuous experiment, conducted on an ample scale, with the most scrupulous care and systematic order, should have led to the establishment of results so numerous and important as to secure for Mr. Lawes the highest rank among the founders of scientific agriculture. In speaking of the chemistry of agriculture, I cannot omit alluding to the writings of Liebig, which have rendered such important services, by bringing vividly before the English agriculturists what was known of the chemistry of farming, and several ingenious and suggestive theories relating to practical agriculture. In the introduction to the last German edition of his 'Agricultural Chemistry,' Liebig refers in terms of studied disrespect to the investigations of Mr. Lawes, and while misquoting a paragraph in one of Mr. Lawes' publications, endeavours to convey the impression that that gentleman was unacquainted with the correct use of the term 'mineral,' and had misunderstood Liebig's mineral theory; which he is generally considered to have disproved. I mention this circumstance with pain, and have no doubt that all who value Liebig's truly important scientific labours will regret it as much as I do. Another practical question which science has latterly brought prominently before the attention of the public is that of the utilization of the drainage of towns. It is estimated that the quantity of nourishment for plants wasted in London alone in this form is worth about a million sterling per annum; but this valuable material is contained in so large a quantity of water, that no plan has come into working for separating it out profitably for use. Some persons are of opinion that the sewage might with advantage be conveyed through pipes for use in the fields, especially on meadow land, to which it is most easily applicable. Baron Liebig has written a letter on the subject, which is forwarded by Alderman Mechi to the *Journal of the Society of Arts*, containing a proposal to mix the liquid with superphosphate of lime before distributing it, by which he considers that the value of the constituent already contained in the liquid will be practically increased. It is, however, not likely that the opinion of a chemist will decide the authorities to adopt an experimental scheme of the kind, as it is really rather an engineering and commercial than a chemical question. The practical test of value commercially is how much an article will fetch, and the data of this kind before us does not lead to the anticipation of a profit at all approaching to what theory suggests from the sale of this refuse. At Croydon (a town of about 18,000 inhabitants) it appears that the sewage is sold for something over a thousand per annum. Another refuse material which has already come to possess great value is coal-tar. Not only is our chief supply of ammonia, the food of plants, derived from that source, but those brilliant and varied colours which are now so much in use for dyeing silk also owe their origin indirectly to the same source. There is perhaps no more striking instance of the benefits which ultimately arise even to the manufacturing arts from every complete investigation of chemical substances than is afforded by those beautiful dyes which have sprung up to-day from aniline, which yesterday was a chemical novelty in the hands of a first-rate investigator."

REVIEWS

PHARMACY IN AMERICA.

Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association at the Tenth Annual Meeting held in Philadelphia, September, 1862.

At the present time, any satisfactory news of the American Pharmaceutical Association will be joyfully received by the scientific Pharmacists of Great Britain. Such institutions, however prosperous in halcyon days, languish in the shadow of war, and the failure of the proposed meeting of the Association in 1861 was by many reluctantly accepted as a presage of approaching dissolution. In the autumn of last year, however, the Association held a successful meeting, thus proving that its vitality was superior to the depressing influence of the war. The record of that meeting now lies before us in the form of a large well-bound volume containing the minutes, reports of committees, and special papers on Pharmaceutical subjects. Before we dip into this volume, we will briefly describe the constitution of the Association, for the information of those readers who do not know how Pharmacy is represented in America. The Association was organized in 1852, for the purpose of uniting the educated Pharmaceutists and Druggists of the United States. Its main object is "to improve the science and art of Pharmacy, by diffusing scientific knowledge among Apothecaries and Druggists, fostering Pharmaceutical literature, developing talent, stimulating discovery and invention, and encouraging home production and manufacture in the several departments of the Drug business." Every Pharmaceutist or Druggist of good moral character, whether in business on his own account, retired from business, or employed by another, is eligible to membership. The meetings are held annually, now in one city and now in another: thus Boston was honoured in 1859, New York in 1860, and Philadelphia in 1862. The leading members of the Association are men whose names are familiar to all readers of the scientific periodicals. Mr. William Procter, the respected editor of the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, is now the President; and Mr. Edward Parrish, the author of the best treatise on Practical Pharmacy in our language, is chairman of the Executive Committee and editor of the *Proceedings*.

In the volume before us there are necessarily very many allusions to the civil war. Mr. Parrish, in his prefatory notes, writes—"In the extent and variety of its contents, the present volume falls short of most of the annual issues of the *Proceedings*; but it is a cause of congratulation that the Association should have held a meeting so fraught with interest and profit to those in attendance, and should be able to issue such an exhibit of Pharmaceutical progress, at a time when most voluntary national organizations have yielded to the storm which is still desolating our beloved country." The address of the President, Mr. Henry T. Kiersted, of New York, opens with some sound observations on the dire events of the two years that had elapsed since the previous meeting, and closes with a hopeful reference to the time "when the members of this Association shall meet once more from North and South, and East and West—when all sections of our country shall be worthily represented among us by men of peace, and when mutual confidence and good-will shall be restored to our now distracted land." The temperate yet earnest remarks of the members of the Association are very acceptable, for we are heartily sick of the slangy denunciations and hollow clap-traps of the unworthy men who float on the troubled waters and bring the American character into disfavour. The letters explaining the absence of certain members, and the notices of those who died in the interval between the meetings, tell us something of the effects of the war. Mr. E. L. Massot, of St. Louis, is kept at home "by the recent order of the United States Government." Mr. W. J. M. Gordon, writing from Cincinnati, says—"No one can leave here unless he gives bonds to return by the 3rd of September, and I could not get back in time." Mr. G. W. Weyman, of Pittsburgh, regrets that, owing to the enlistment of one of his clerks, he cannot leave his business. Two deaths mentioned in the report of the Executive Committee are particularly impressive. Mr. Charles A. Junghanns, a valuable member, raised a company in Cincinnati, and as its captain joined the Federal army. "Naturally not robust, the exposure incident to his new life affected his lungs. At the battle of Shiloh, his loss of voice having rendered him unable to perform his duty as an officer, he deliberately put his first lieutenant in command of his company, and, taking a rifle, fought with great coolness and precision, until he fell from a wound in his head." Mr. Joseph Laidley, an able and energetic Pharmaceutist, who had been a Vice-President of the Association, was present at the New York meeting of September, 1860; in the May following he was killed in a shocking manner at Richmond by "the premature explosion of a quantity of fulminating mercury, in the preparation of which he voluntarily engaged for the Confederate authorities."

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* Mr. Parrish was formerly a regular contributor to our little Journal, but he has sent us nothing since August, 1861, when he inveighed against the British Cabinet for its "connivance with the traitorous cotton insurrection." We fear that our "Southern proclivities" caused him to discontinue his interesting and valuable communications.

The minutes of the meeting constitute the least valuable portion of the volume of Proceedings, for but few of the queries proposed at the previous meeting were answered, and no important discoveries or improvements were announced. Here and there, however, we meet with an interesting fact or a useful hint. With regard to a proposal to discontinue the Committee on Adulterations, Mr. Parrish made a few sensible remarks which ought to be carefully considered by the Adulteration Committee of the recently-established "Conference":—

"Mr. Parrish thought there was great danger in carrying this method of treating the subject of adulteration too far. It had become a bugbear in England, and to some extent with us. Those who are on the look-out for adulterations in food and medicine seem to seek the most unusual and inaccessible sources of supply, and hence form a false estimate of the real extent of the evil; while those whose interest it is to depreciate and decry our science would make the public believe that medicines are so adulterated and unreliable, that homœopathy or some favourite form of quackery is greatly preferable to legitimate medicine."

The most important of the special Reports are the following:—"On Oil of Benne (Oleum Sesami)," by James T. Shinn; "On a New Apparatus for testing Coal Oils," by Edward Parrish; "On the Commercial Varieties of Arrowroot," by E. T. Ellis; "Statistics and Assays of Virgin Scammony," and "Experiments on the Effect of Bleaching Processes upon Sulphate of Morphia," by Dr. Edward B. Squibb; "On the Active Principles of Veratrum Viride," by G. J. Scattergood; "On Phosphomolybdic Acid as a Test for Alkaloids in Medicinal Preparations," by F. F. Mayer; "On the Alkaloids of Hydrastis Canadensis and Xanthorrhiza Apiifolia," by W. S. Merrill. We shall give abstracts of some of these papers in future numbers.

The leading feature of the volume is the Report on the Progress of Pharmacy, by Mr.

John M. Maisch, of Brooklyn, New York. This masterly compilation embraces notices of scientific institutions and personal appointments, an obituary, a catalogue of new works bearing on Pharmacy, and notes on the improvements in Chemistry, Pharmacy, and the collateral branches of science. It is, in fact, a record of the work done by Pharmaceutists and Chemists in America and Europe during the two years preceding the meeting at Philadelphia. The report is not simply an index to Pharmaceutical literature—Mr. Maisch has endeavoured to give in as few words as possible a concise statement of the principal results, without entering into detail: in cases, however, where a short abstract could not well be made, little more than the title of the paper is mentioned. The scientific classification adopted in this report greatly increases its usefulness, by bringing together researches on the same and kindred subjects.

We congratulate the former President and the Executive Committee on the result of their determination to hold a meeting, notwithstanding the troubled times, and the compulsory absence of so many members.

"We have called this meeting," said the President, "with an ardent trust that what we lack in numbers we may make up in energy and strength, and that the record of our present proceedings may show that though surrounded by difficulties, and menaced by adversity, we have acquited ourselves like men."

A Dictionary of Chemistry, &c. By HENRY WATTS, B.A., F.C.S. Part VII. Conhydrine—Cyanic Acid. Longmans. *5s.*

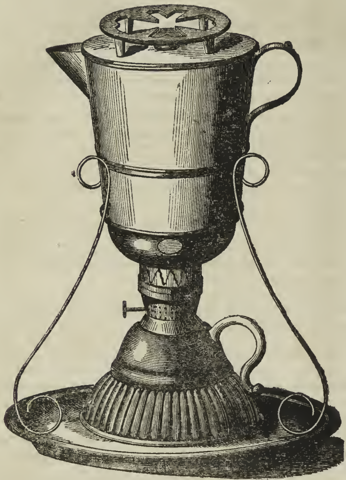
DR. JOHNSON states that a dictionary is "a book containing the words of a language arranged in alphabetical order, with explanations of their meanings." This definition must be stretched a good deal before it will fit Mr. Watts's work. In the part before us, sixty large pages of small type are devoted to a consideration of the chemistry of Copper, and nearly as many pages to a treatise on Crystallography. We shall give some account of these two important articles in our next. The subjects connected with Pharmacy elucidated in this part are Conine (the poisonous principle of hemlock), Copaiba oil and resins, Copal, Coumarin, Creosote, Croton oil, Cubebin, and Curara.

CARLESS, BLAGDEN, AND CO.'S APOKATHARTIKON.

UNDER the above title, Messrs. Carless and Co. have forwarded a very good sample of the more volatile mineral spirit, designed for the purpose of cleaning kid gloves, removing grease stains, &c. The odour is not at all unpleasant, and the liquid evaporates perfectly in less than two minutes, without leaving any trace of smell.

Its solvent power is as great as that of Benzole, which it fully equals in its cleansing properties. It is necessarily, like all liquids of the class, excessively inflammable at all temperatures; it is therefore desirable that a caution to that effect should be placed on the directions for use. We cannot refrain from entering our strongest protest against the absurdity of employing long compound terms, derived from the Greek and Latin languages, as names for articles intended for common domestic use; we are sure that they injure the sale, and can scarcely conceive anything more ridiculous than the misnomers to which they give rise. In the present case, if Betsy were asked by her mistress to procure some APOKATHARTICON, she would most probably try to bring an apothecary, and would probably think that the word was a compound of his title, and the word cathartic; so, if very thoughtful, she might ask him to come provided with a black draught. It is a pity that so good an article should be disguised under such a title.

THE UNIVERSAL NIGHT LIGHT, COOKING, AND NURSERY LAMP.



THE Paraffin Light Company have just issued a very useful apparatus, designed to serve the conjoined purposes of night light and cooking or heating lamp for a nursery or sick room. It consists of an ordinary flat-wicked lamp, placed on a stand, which supports also the vessel to be heated. There is no glass chimney, but the flame is surrounded by a half or semi-globe of metal, in the side of which is a window of talc, for the purpose of allowing light to come into the room. On this semi-globe is placed the vessel containing the water to be heated; an inner tube, not shown in the engraving, passes through this vessel, and constitutes the chimney of the lamp; by this arrangement the heat is so economized and utilized that a very considerable quantity of water can be rapidly brought to the boiling point. When this water is required for use, the flame is simply turned down to a low point to prevent smoking, the vessel removed, and the water poured off, when the vessel may be refilled and replaced. If it is required to warm any infant's food, jelly or similar substance, it is placed in an inner vessel formed of porcelain, which is heated by the water in the outer vessel. In order to utilize to the utmost every portion of the heat, a movable tripod, shown in the sketch, is placed over the aperture of the chimney, so that an egg-boiler, small stewpan, or little kettle, can be placed on the top, and may be rapidly heated.

In sick-rooms, where a constant supply of boiling water is always a desideratum, this contrivance will be much valued; and to those early risers who require hot water before the servants are prepared with a supply, it will be especially convenient. In fact, the capability of obtaining a supply of boiling water at any hour of the day or night without more trouble than simply lighting a lamp, is sufficient to commend the contrivance to the notice of the public at large.

RIMMEL'S PELLUCID GLYCERINE SOAP.

THE emollient action of glycerine on the skin has led to its freqnent employment, not only as a therapeutical agent, but also as an accessory to the toilet. Its use in a pure state, however, is attended with many inconveniences: consequently, several attempts have been made to introduce it into soaps and toilet creams, &c.

The present preparation appears to be by far the most successful that we have seen. It is a pure transparent soap, solid, perfectly hard, and of a clear amber colour, and most agreeably perfumed. It is remarkably distinguished by containing thirty per cent. of liquid glycerine: this renders it exceedingly emollient and pleasant in use; it lathers quickly, and renders the skin delightfully soft and pleasant. For the nursery, as a shaving soap, for cases of abraded cuticle, and particularly for chapped hands, we have rarely seen so useful and advantageous an article.

We should think its elegance and desirable properties likely to command a good general sale; and during the season for chapped hands, we can hardly imagine a more taking or useful toilet accessory.

THE MONTH

UNITED SOCIETY OF CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

At the monthly meeting of this Committee, the Secretary reported that he had received an official communication from the Medical Council, acknowledging the receipt of the Committee's application respecting a deputation, and stating that the same would be considered at the next meeting of the Council, which, however, would not take place until the end of the present year. Under these circumstances, the Committee propose to postpone the meeting of the trade in London until the middle of October, when many of the principal members now absent from town will be enabled to attend.

The following resolutions were unanimously agreed to be submitted to the meeting :—

"That the proposal of the Medical Council to forcibly dispossess upwards of 30,000 Chemists and Druggists of their practice to dispense medicine is an unwarrantable interference with their civil rights and trade interests, and would be attended with danger and injustice to the entire community.

"That to protect the Chemist and Druggist from unnecessary legislative restriction, and the public from incompetent Dispensers, a complete registration is necessary; and that this can best be secured by the General Act of Incorporation of the trade, as proposed by the United Society of Chemists and Druggists, based as it is upon a recognition of existing rights, and the inexpensive and effective mode of securing the practical knowledge required."

The Secretary reported that the new certificate of membership would be received from the engravers in the course of about a week or ten days, and would then be immediately issued to those members who had applied for them.

MEETING AT SHEFFIELD.

A numerous meeting of the Chemists and Druggists of Sheffield and its vicinity was held in the large room of the King's Head Hotel, on Thursday evening, August 13. The chair was occupied by Dr. J. C. Hall, who, in opening the proceedings, expressed the pleasure it afforded him at seeing so many gentlemen present, and said, when a deputation waited upon him with a request that he would preside over their meeting, he felt that it was a duty to lend what assistance he could, as a practising physician, to aid a society having for its object the elevation of so useful a body of gentlemen as the Chemists and Druggists. He was glad to see such gentlemen as Mr. Goadsby of Manchester, Mr. Herapath of Bristol, Mr. Reinhardt of Leeds, and Mr. Hedderley of Nottingham, taking an active part in promoting the objects of this Society. (Hear, hear.) When the Pharmaceutical Society was first established, he (Dr. Hall) wished it every success, because it was a step in the right direction. From some cause or other, its success had not been so great as might have been anticipated, or as he could have desired. From the Journal of that Society, which he held in his hand, it would appear that the number of its members, home, corresponding, honorary, and paying, was only 2,992; and to make up this number they had to include 698 apprentices: then only 336 had been examined, 160 having passed the major, and 176 the minor examination. How was it, then, that out of the same thirty thousand Chemists and Druggists in the United Kingdom, so small a number had joined the Pharmaceutical Society? (Hear.) He feared that the Society had failed from not adopting the same plan as the Apothecaries' Company in obtaining the Act of 1815, which respected the interests of every existing Apothecary; and he (the chairman) thought that unless the interests of every existing Chemist and Druggist were in like manner to be respected, all attempts must fail. (Cheers.) He saw in that room gentlemen who had at one time been members of the Pharmaceutical Society—gentlemen admitted *ad eundem* with the rest—gentlemen who had paid their two guineas; but although highly qualified at that time, they were now no longer members, for they did not pay their guinea a year, and, consequently, were quite incompetent to make up a prescription. (Cheers and laughter.) Now, it appeared to him (Dr. Hall) that an Act of Incorporation was required, by which an effective registration of all existing members of the trade could be accomplished; and then he should indeed be glad if the Pharmaceutical Society and the United Society of Chemists and Druggists could go hand in hand in securing an efficient test by examination for all those who might for the future desire to enter the trade—an examination that should be both a sufficient test of the education of the candidate, and of an adequate knowledge of his calling. The Apothecaries' Company had done this, and produced the most beneficial results in the Medical Profession; and it was only by taking a like course that the trade of a Chemist and Druggist could be raised in this country to that high standard which the community had a right to expect. But this would not be accomplished by some two or three thousand gentlemen (only about three hundred of whom had been tested by an examination) claiming to be alone entitled to certain rights and privileges, and having twenty-seven or twenty-eight thousand of their brethren quite as intelligent, as highly educated, and as competent as themselves, branded in the eyes of the public with a mark of supposed inferiority. The House of Commons would never listen to any such injustice. (Hear.) There was one other topic on which he wished to say one word. The Benevolent Fund in connexion with the United Society of Chemists and Druggists was an appeal to the charity of all. "They knew not what a day might bring forth;" they knew, alas! that it was a duty to help a brother in distress—to provide for the widow, the fatherless, and the orphan. If the 30,000 Chemists of this country would contribute even so small a sum as one shilling a year each, it would raise the Benevolent Fund £1,500 annually, and provide the means of relief to many who were now suffering for want of some such seasonable help as this fund would afford. (Applause.)

Mr. Hornby moved the first resolution—"That the Chemists and Druggists of Sheffield approve of the principles and objects of the United Society of Chemists and Druggists, and hereby form themselves into a Local Association in connexion with that Society,"—and said that having abandoned all hope of a reformation of the trade from the Pharmaceutical Society, he observed with much pleasure the progress made by the United Society in that direction, and hailed the suggestion for an incorporation of the trade made by the executive of that body as an earnest of the good intended. He was also particularly glad to welcome the United Society in Sheffield, because the formation of a branch of it in that town would enable them to establish lectures and other means of intellectual improvement, bring the Sheffield Druggists together in friendship, and give them a voice in the councils of the trade. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Jepson seconded the resolution.

Mr. Perry, in a few appropriate sentences, expressed the pleasure he felt in proposing the second resolution—"That Dr. J. C. Hall be requested to be the chairman, and Mr. E. P. Hornby to be the Honorary Secretary, of the Sheffield Association."

Mr. F. C. Jenkinson having seconded it,

Mr. Buott, sen., of London, moved—"That the opposition of the Society to the projected New Medical Act, so far as affecting the interest of Chemists and Druggists, shall have the strenuous support of this Association,"—and said it was now about a quarter of a century ago since a few energetic and public-spirited men met together in London, with an earnest desire to improve the condition of Chemists and Druggists as a trading community. They agreed that whilst it was desirable to protect the public from incompetent persons dealing in drugs, it was equally desirable to encourage gentlemen of education to enter the trade; and they found that both these desirable objects might be attained by barring all access to the trade except by means of an educational test; but a question arose, which remains undecided to this day—*What are we to do with those now engaged in the business who may be adjudged to be incompetent?* Many quacks and huxters were then, as now, selling drugs, who knew nothing about them; but how could they be removed? What test could be applied to them? where was the line between competency and incompetency to be drawn, and who were to be judges in such a case? The question could not be left to the Druggists themselves, because, whenever there was a feud, A would scornfully point to B as incompetent, and B would denounce A as being no better than himself. Nor yet could it be delegated to the Doctors, whose interests were opposed to those of the Druggists. Besides, if those who did not come up to the proposed standard were cut off from their business, what compensation could they offer them, and how could they supply their places with the public? These far-seeing men, therefore, concluded that the only practical way to reconcile a reformation of the trade with existing interests, was to register every claimant to be a Chemist and Druggist under an Act of Incorporation, and to apply the test of examination to all those who might hereafter come into the business. Unhappily, a few influential gentlemen, who were scandalized at the idea of being registered in common with quacks and huxtering Druggists, defeated this wise proposal, and eventually the Pharmaceutical Society was established, upon the principle of *selection by means of a money consideration.* The primary object of these gentlemen was, no doubt, to make the Druggists selected from the trade the basis of a future educated body; but they had signally failed, and allowed a legion of incompetent traders in drugs to spring up and bring the trade into disrepute, whilst the examined members of their own Society had been too few even to give the gloss of an educational status to their non-examined brethren. (Hear, hear.) The Pharmaceutical Society had nevertheless done *some* good; indeed, it was difficult to suppose an institution so costly to be utterly useless. It had diffused, to some extent, a spirit of emulation and scientific inquiry amongst the rising generation; but that was nothing to the mass of quackery and huxtering ignorance which it had left to fester before the public. Thus, a quarter of a century had been frittered away, and many thousand pounds had been wasted in erecting an outside show of prosperity, whilst the last state of the trade was worse than the first; and, in the language of Mr. Barling—himself a Pharmaceutist—the Pharmaceutical Society was such a *lamentable failure*, that it was necessary to *try back and begin again*. (Hear, hear.) Finding it hopeless to expect the regeneration of the trade from such a source, the trade had wisely determined to be its own reformer; and the United Society of Chemists and Druggists, which was already more numerous than the Pharmaceutical Society, fairly represented the wishes and wants of the 35,000 Chemists whose interests were at stake, and was to them a bulwark against the machinations of their enemies. That Society had promulgated a scheme of incorporation sound and just in principle, and perfectly practicable; and it seemed almost incredible that a body of men so grave and wise as the Medical Council were reputed to be should ignore the existence of such a Society, take no notice of its plan of regeneration, and proceed to suggest another legislative measure affecting vital interests of the trade it represented, with as little respect as if they were disposing of so many sheep for the slaughter, or bricks for a building. But the chief impropriety of this proceeding lay in the fact that the Medical Council represented a body of men who would be proportionately benefited by every Druggist whom they could dispossess of his business.

Mr. Buott denounced the proposed measure of the Medical Council as one of practical spoliation, and amused the meeting by reference to one or two of its most preposterous clauses. He then urged the suggestions of the Executive of the United Society for an Act of Incorporation as being based upon justice, and calculated to benefit and elevate the trade. (Applause.)

Mr. Fretwell Hudson seconded this resolution, and

Mr. Davy, of Rotherham, moved—"That the suggestions of the Executive Committee of the Society for the incorporation of the trade are reasonable and just, and the Chemists and Druggists present now pledge themselves to support such Parliamentary action as may be necessary to give them legal effect,"—and remarked that he was glad of a resolution which implied something more than talking, for this spoke of action. The trade was in a very unsatisfactory condition, and he hoped the United Society would persevere until it was thoroughly reformed.

This resolution having been seconded by Mr. Dyson,

Mr. Hornby said he had particular pleasure in moving—"That the members of this Association consider it to be their duty, as tradesmen, to make a provision for their necessitous poor, and thereby assist in promoting the first object of the Institution." He (Mr. Hornby) felt quite at home in moving this resolution, which pledged them to an imperative duty in relation to their unfortunate brethren, and was a happy bond of union to the trade. He and Dr. Hall had been for some years fellow-labourers in promoting charity and brotherhood in Sheffield, and he was delighted to think that the necessitous Chemist would be saved from destitution by this Benevolent Fund. To solace the woes of the afflicted, and to find a refuge for those whom poverty had stricken down in old age, should ever afford the highest gratification to those whom God had blessed with prosperity. (Cheers.)

Mr. Collyer, though an old Pharmaceutist, thoroughly approved of the principles enunciated at the meeting, and would be glad to see them carried into effect. He seconded the resolution.

Mr. Huddlestone, on moving "That the gentlemen who constitute the Sheffield Association recognize the liberal encouragement given by the Parent Society to apply its organization to the promotion of local interests, and declare their determination to discountenance any attempt to use it to the prejudice of the Society," said that the formation of local associations in various parts of the country must be a very heavy expense to the Society, and he thought the Executive Committee were quite justified in taking what moral security they could obtain for the fidelity of such associations to the parent Society. He trusted that Association would be of great and lasting benefit to Sheffield.

This resolution having been seconded by Mr. Owen,

Mr. Buott warmly eulogized Dr. Hall as a contributor to the cause of human progress in literature, in science, and in practical philanthropy, and begged on behalf of the Executive of the Institution, and of the gentlemen present, to move—"That the thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Hall for his ability and kindness in presiding on this occasion." Which proposal being seconded and put to the meeting, was unanimously and enthusiastically adopted.

Dr. Hall acknowledged the compliment, and expressed the pleasure he had on that occasion felt, and should ever feel, in promoting the interests of his fellow-townsmen. The proceedings were then closed.

The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, on concluding a report of this important meeting, adds—"Dr. J. C. Hall has accepted the chairmanship and Mr. Hornby the secretaryship of the local society. The object of the United Society of Chemists, which is to provide a fund for their necessitous poor, and to promote and to protect the interests of the trade by means of an Act of Incorporation based upon a recognition of existing rights, seems to have commanded the almost unanimous approbation of the trade in Sheffield, for not less than sixty Chemists of the town, including several members of the Pharmaceutical Society, have joined the institution, and are about to form themselves into a local association, to secure active support to the Society, and to cultivate a friendly feeling amongst themselves."

MEETING AT BRISTOL.

A meeting of the members of this Society and the Trade was convened by circular on the 1st inst., and held at the Swan Hotel, Bridge-street, for the purpose of considering certain sections of the proposed new Medical Bill affecting Pharmacy. Wm. Herapath, sen., Esq., F.C.S., &c., Chairman of the District, presided. The Chairman said he had not had much time to make himself acquainted with the provisions of the Bill, but thought the trade right in looking after its own interests. He could not see who comprised the Medical Council, who presumed to exercise such powers, or how far political jobbery entered into the scheme. The general proposition to incorporate our Society seemed to him good, and calculated to meet our wishes. There was much room for education, and definition between competent and incompetent sellers and compounders of dangerous drugs. Many who now called themselves Chemists and Druggists by selling a few drugs, &c., were not entitled to such a distinction. It seemed rather a nice point where to draw a line, but one there ought to be. He wondered at some of the members of this Association not taking it up with greater spirit, when their interests were in jeopardy: however, he supposed they were all unanimous upon the business for which they were then met.—A letter was then read by the Secretary from Algernon Warren, Esq., Wholesale Druggist, explaining his unavoidable absence from the meeting of the Society, which had his best wishes. Short but forcible speeches were then fully made by nearly all the members present, after which the following resolutions were put to the meeting and carried unanimously:—1st. Proposed by Mr. E. S. Wallis, and seconded by Mr. J. Newman—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, Sections 55, 56 and 57—or so much of the proposed new Medical Act as relates to Chemists and Druggists—are unjust, and calculated to do a great injury to our trade, and therefore this meeting pledges itself to use every effort to prevent the same, as it now stands, becoming law." 2nd. Proposed by Mr. A. Caird, and seconded by Mr. W. Short—"That a committee consisting of the chairman, secretary, and members present, communicate with the local Members of Parliament, requesting early notice of the introduction of the proposed Bill into the House of Commons; and further, to withhold their assent upon the ground of its injustice." The Chairman said he would forward the resolutions to the Members of Parliament. A vote of thanks to the Chairman for his valuable assistance in the chair ended this highly interesting meeting of the trade.

MEETING AT BATH.

At a meeting of the trade held in this city on the 3rd instant, a resolution condemnatory of the proposed New Medical Act was carried unanimously, those present pledging themselves to use every effort at the proper time to oppose this unjust interference of the Medical Council.

THE CHEMISTS OF YORK.

The Local Secretary of the United Society writes to say that all the principal members of the trade have agreed to adopt a petition to forward to their Parliamentary representatives, in case the Medical Bill as at present proposed makes its appearance in the House of Commons.

MEETING AT NOTTINGHAM.

At a meeting of the members of the United Society of Chemists and Druggists at Nottingham, it was unanimously decided that the opposition of the executive committee to the obnoxious clauses of the proposed New Medical Act should have the strenuous support of the Nottingham Association. A peculiar feature of this meeting was the fact that one-half of the gentlemen present were members of the Pharmaceutical Society—a pleasing indication of the wish of the trade without distinction to unite their efforts for the common good, auguring success to the scheme of incorporation. In consequence of the death of Mr. Hedderly, the esteemed chairman of this district, Charles Bass, Esq., was elected as his successor.

MEETING AT NORWICH.

Mr. Buott, sen., was at Norwich on Thursday, the 2nd instant, and having invited the members of the trade to meet him at the Castle Hotel in the evening, a friendly discussion of the objects of the United Society ensued. Mr. Buott explained to the meeting the course which would be pursued by the executive committee in relation to the proposed measure of the Medical Council, and the gentlemen present signified their approbation. He also invited them to express their willingness to support the cause of the Society by becoming members, when the majority gave in their adhesion. Mr. Peggs has accepted the local secretaryship for Norwich provisionally.

MEETING OF THE ROCHESTER AND CHATHAM CHEMISTS.

On the 3rd instant, a meeting of the Chemists in Rochester and Chatham, convened by the United Society, was held at the Sun Hotel, Mr. Jarman, of Chatham, being in the chair, when the proposed Medical Bill was unanimously condemned, and it was resolved to call upon the Members of Parliament for these localities to resist this most unjust bill at the next session. Its restrictive character and operation were explained, and the general claims of the Society were urged upon the meeting by Mr. Barnaby, the local secretary for the district. Amongst those who addressed the meeting were Messrs. Langham, Foster, Watts, Stevens, and Moreton, who maintained that the United Society was the only bulwark upon which the trade could now rely. It was intimated that on another occasion they would meet to arrange for general trade purposes.

LAW AND CRIME.

A CHEMIST REPRIMANDED BY A CORONER.

An inquest was lately held at Walsall by Mr. Hooper, coroner, on the body of the illegitimate son of Rebecca Adkins. From the evidence it appeared that the child was born on the 16th of April last, and that shortly afterwards its mother became an inmate of the Birmingham General Hospital, leaving her offspring in the care of her stepmother, who, when the child was about six weeks old, took it to Mr. Highway, chemist, and by him it was treated for convulsions. Mr. Highway continued to prescribe for the child at intervals until the latter part of July, when he informed Mrs. Adkins that it would not live, but did not tell her to take it to a physician. She then took the child home, and continued to give it the medicine she had obtained from Mr. Highway. The child survived for about a week longer, and died on the 3rd inst.; but during the whole of that time she did not take any further steps to procure medical assistance for it. After hearing the evidence, the Coroner adjourned the inquiry for the purpose of a post-mortem examination; and Dr. Burton now attended, and described the appearance and state of the body of the deceased, the result of the examination showing that the child had died of inflammation of the liver, of the sub-acute kind. In reply to the Coroner, he stated that he found no trace of poison, and added that *he had no reason to suppose that if the child had been his patient, he should have known that it was suffering from this form of disease.* This was the only additional evidence offered. The Coroner said he could not help expressing his very strong surprise that Mr. Highway did not tell the woman to take the child to a medical man, because he told her on the first or second visit that the infant was in a bad state. It was a course which one would have supposed any Chemist to have taken, and especially one holding a high position in the town, as he believed Mr. Highway did. Mr. Highway did eventually give a certificate of the cause of death, but he entirely disapproved of Chemists giving certificates, and also of their not sending children to medical men. He wished these remarks to go forth through the press, and he hoped the case would be a caution to Mr. Highway, for it was his intention to have all such cases investigated thoroughly. The Jury found that disease of the liver was the cause of death.—[We publish this report as a caution to charitable Chemists who believe that they are doing their duty when attempting to alleviate the sufferings of the sick children of the poor. The straightforward evidence of the physician proves that the poor child died from the effects of an obscure disease, and not from any improper treatment. The right of Chemists to prescribe is fortunately too well established to be shaken by the attacks of Mr. Hooper, the coroner.]

A PENALTY FOR TAKING PHYSIC.

At the Worship-street Police Court, recently, two ragged lads, named Thomas Gibbons, aged fourteen, and William Green, fifteen, were charged with having stolen a bottle of physic valued at 2*s*. The officer proved that he saw one of the lads deliberately lift up the lid of the time-honoured basket, and coolly take a bottle which he put in his pocket. This statement provoked some laughter, the more so that one of the lads exclaimed to the magistrate "I didn't want to take the physic." One of the attorneys present asked, as *amicus curiæ*, if it were an offence against the law for a person to take physic, but he was reminded that the same remark had been made in reference to some stolen snuff. It was then suggested that the physic should be divided in equal doses and administered to the delinquents, but the magistrate said he was bound to fine one of the lads *5s.* for the unlawful possession of the physic, and he should discharge the other because he had not taken any. No order was made about the property, which may, even now, be amongst the hidden mysteries of some police station.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY A CHEMIST.

At the Mansion House, on Monday, the 17th ult., George Hitchcock, described as a Chemist residing at a place in Suffolk, was charged with attempting suicide.

On the previous Friday, about one o'clock in the day, he was seen by William Taylor, a porter, to mount the parapet of London-bridge in an excited manner, and to lower himself down to the cornice on the further side. Taylor rushed forward and seized him while in that position, pulled him on to the bridge, though with some difficulty, and afterwards gave him into custody.

The prisoner, in his defence, at first ridiculed the idea that he had intended to make any attempt upon his life; but, finding the Bench took a different view of the matter, he said he was the worse for liquor at the time, and he urged that he might be set at liberty.

The Lord Mayor said offences of this kind had been very rife of late, and it behoved magistrates to do all they could to discountenance them, the more so as the lives of other people were sometimes put in peril in saving those of persons attempting to make away with themselves. He fined the prisoner 20*s.*, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

THE OPIUM ROBBERY.

At the Central Criminal Court, on the 17th ult., Benjamin Miller, convicted last session of stealing opium from a lighter on the Thames, was brought up for judgment.

Mr. Poland, counsel for the prosecution, said the sentence had been respited to afford the prisoner an opportunity of stating how the stolen property had been disposed of, but he had made no disclosure.

The Recorder sentenced the prisoner to twelve months' imprisonment, with hard labour, dating from last session.

ACCIDENTS.

ACCIDENTAL POISONING AT THE NEWCASTLE INFIRMARY.

On the 19th ult. an adjourned inquest on the body of Margaret Spoor was held at the Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, before the deputy coroner. The deceased died suddenly at that institution a few days before, after taking a dose of medicine. From the evidence of the surgeon who made the post-mortem examination, and of the analytical chemist who examined the stomach and the remainder of the medicine, it was perfectly clear that the poor woman died from the effects of prussic acid. The circumstances of the poisoning were fully and honestly explained by the dispenser, whose evidence we print without abridgement:—

Mr. J. E. Hindmarsh, dispenser to the Infirmary, said :—I have been dispenser above twelve years in the same situation. I make up all the prescriptions, both for the in-patients and the out-patients. I make up prescriptions for from 150 to 200 patients a day. On the 11th of August, I remember receiving the prescription written on the card of Dr. Heath to make up for Margaret Spoor. The nurse told me to be careful. I have been in practice about twenty years, and I think it an unusual prescription. I never had before a prescription with cyanide of potassium in it to make up. The prescription was "Cyanide of potassium five grains, water twelve ounces." I did not make up the prescription as ordered. I made it up with sixty-six grains to sixteen ounces of water. I did not find it out till I went upstairs about twenty minutes before the deceased died. I was in this room at the opening of the inquest on the 12th of August. I do not remember the coroner asking if any one wished to be examined. I wished to go to the coroner's office to make a statement after the first inquiry was over. I never made a request to the coroner at the inquest to be examined. I was advised to wait until asked to make a statement, and not to speak of my own accord. When sent for before the deceased died, I found out my mistake, and told them of it. I spoke of it openly in the ward. Dr. Bolton, Mr. Hughes, and two or three medical students, and Mrs. Cook, were there. When the patient died, I went to Dr. Heath's house, and told him I had given an overdose of cyanide of potassium, and stated the quantity. I never made up a prescription like that before. I was aware that it was a poison. I read the prescription five grains to the dose, instead of five grains to the twelve ounces. Before I made it up, I looked at one or two chemistry books, but they did not state the quantity to a dose. I reduced what I read as Dr. Heath's dose of 5 grains to 3¾ grains of cyanide of potassium. A boy came for the medicine, and I told him to tell the nurse to be very careful what she did with the medicine, and to take care and not poison the patient, and not to give at first more than half the dose. I had every confidence in Dr. Heath, and only made these remarks as a precaution. I believe if the nurse had not told me to be careful in making up the prescription, I should have read the card with my usual composure, and the accident would in all probability not have occurred.

At the conclusion of the examination of this witness, the coroner summed up; and the jury having consulted, returned the following verdict:—"That deceased died from the effects of an overdose of medicine, containing an excessive dose of cyanide of potassium, which had been inadvertently compounded in it." One of the jurors said that there was an amount of negligence on the part of Mr. Hindmarsh, but not sufficient to return a verdict of manslaughter. On the part of the doctors, they thought they had suppressed facts within their knowledge at the time of their examination.

No notice is taken of the above case by certain Medical journals which give publicity to the case of careless dispensing reported below. Accidental poisonings do not come under the head of "Medical News" unless they can be traced to the druggist's shop.

DEATH FROM CARELESS DISPENSING.

On the 13th ult., Mr. W. W. Driffield, the deputy coroner for the borough of Liverpool, held an inquest to ascertain the circumstances connected with the death of the wife of Mr. G. M. Brown, banker, residing at Prince's-park. The deceased was twenty-eight years of age, and was generally a healthy woman. On Thursday, the 6th ult., she complained of being bilious, and of having a pain in her back, at the same time attributing these symptoms to natural causes, and saying she would prescribe for herself a blue pill and a black draught, as had been prescribed for her two years before while at Leamington. This was before her husband went to town to business, and when he returned home in the evening she was sitting by the drawing-room fire, and complained of being chilly and feverish. On retiring to bed, about eleven o'clock, she told her husband that she had taken a pill; and on Friday morning, about half-past six o'clock, she took the black draught, which was handed to her by the housemaid. The draught was put into a glass, and on taking it into her hand the deceased said, "How nasty it smells!" and after swallowing it she said she felt "giddy and sick," adding, "Is it possible I have been poisoned?" Her husband laughed off the idea, and soon afterwards left the room. Before leaving home he went into the bedroom, and found that she had been asleep. He did not return till about seven o'clock on Friday night, when he found her in a state of insensibility, and breathing in a "hicking" manner at intervals. There were then three medical men in attendance on her. She was in a sinking state, and never rallied, but died about four in the morning of Saturday.

From the evidence of George Ross Iliffe, butler to Mr. Brown, it appeared that he was sent on Thursday afternoon by the cook for a blue pill and a black draught, which he obtained at the shop of Mr. Pearson, druggist, Park-road, having stated that it was for a lady. On Friday morning he got a bottle from Beatrice White, the housemaid, which he washed in warm water. It had a peculiar smell, and what remained of its contents had a dark red colour. The same forenoon, between eleven and half-past eleven, the cook and housemaid left home to see the *Great Eastern*, leaving witness and the deceased alone in the house. He did not see the deceased at any time that day, although he had been several times in the drawing-room. The female servants returned about four o'clock, and White, the housemaid, immediately went to the bedroom, from which she soon returned, saying Mrs. Brown was asleep. The witness then went to Liverpool with some clothes, and saw Mr. Brown, who asked how Mrs. Brown was, and witness told him she was asleep when he left. On witness returning home about seven o'clock, it was found that deceased was very ill, and that her countenance was livid. He was immediately sent for a doctor, and after some difficulty got one (Mr. Hamilton), who attended. On the day before the inquest this witness was taken to Mr. Pearson's shop, where he was shown two bottles, one of them containing laudanum, the other black draught. The bottle which he got from Beatrice White, and which he washed, smelt like the laudanum, and not like the black draught. In cross-examination, this witness stated that when he went to Mr. Pearson's he found that the shop was in course of being papered and painted, and that there seemed to be a considerable amount of confusion in its arrangements. The evidence of Beatrice White was confirmatory of the previous testimony as to giving the deceased the contents of the bottle which she had got in the pantry.

Mr. Hamilton, surgeon, was the first medical witness. He had been called between seven and eight o'clock on Friday night to attend the deceased. He found her livid in the countenance, breathing irregularly, with froth at her mouth, and in a profuse perspiration. He tried to rouse her, but she was perfectly insensible. The pupils of her eyes were contracted and her limbs drawn up, but without any twitching. He turned her, with a view to alleviate the symptoms, and the lividity of the countenance disappeared to a considerable extent. He tried to administer a little brandy-and-water, but the deceased could not swallow it. He had a consultation with Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Long, who were called in soon after him, and they did not think it advisable to apply the stomach-pump, because her breathing was so irregular that the introduction of the tube might produce suffocation, and also because so long after taking a narcotic it would be useless.

Dr. J. B. Edwards deposed that he had made an analysis of the contents of the stomach of the deceased, and he had discovered, after purification from animal matter, the presence of meconic acid and of morphia—constituents of opium. The reactions indicated that a large dose of opium had been taken. He had also examined a bottle labelled "black draught," and now produced. From the odour of the phial, he had no hesitation in stating that it had contained laudanum or tincture of opium, but it did not contain sufficient for a chemical analysis. The cork of the bottle was free from the odour of the essential and aromatic oils which are usually present in black draughts, and from the odour he should be of opinion that the bottle had contained laudanum only.

Mr. Pearson stated that he remembered the witness Iliffe coming to his shop and asking for a black draught. He conscientiously believed at the time that he was giving a black draught; but it was possible, owing to the confused state of the shop, that the bottle containing the black draught might have been removed, and the bottle containing the laudanum put by accident in its place. He deeply regretted if, by an unfortunate accident, he had been the cause of the lady's death.

The Coroner, in summing up, stated that after the evidence of Mr. Hamilton and Dr. Edwards, there could be no doubt that death had been caused by poison; and if the jury believed that Mr. Pearson had negligently supplied a wrong draught, they must find a verdict of manslaughter against him; but if they considered it was an accident, and there was no want of caution on his part, they would then return a verdict that the deceased was accidentally poisoned.

The jury then returned the following verdict:—"That the deceased had died from the effects of a deadly poison called opium, carelessly dispensed by Edward Pearson, chemist;" and added, that they considered Mr. Pearson was deserving of censure for not having looked closely to the label on the bottle from which the draught was taken.

GENERAL NEWS.

METHYLATED SPIRIT—CHEAP INTOXICATION.

A Chemist has written to the *Times* on the losses which accrue to the revenue by the substitution of methylated spirit for duty-paid spirit. His letter runs thus:—

"In the one article of spirit of nitre I have no hesitation in saying the Treasury is mulcted of perhaps a million pounds annually: a very little of that article is sold which is not distilled from 'methylated finish.'

"I may mention that there is a very cheap process of becoming intoxicated without paying a penny to the Excise for the stimulant. It cannot be doubted for a moment that the enormous quantity of sweet spirit of nitre sold is not taken medicinally. When taken with hot water and a lump of sugar it is tolerably palatable, and, at 1*s*. per lb., as sold by many tradesmen, any poor old woman, opium-eater, or other, whose habits of intemperance are very great, can for about threepence to sixpence acquire their miserable object.

"As a Chemist of several years' standing, I can vouch for the numerous stomach-aches which have to be cured by that wolf in sheep's clothing. "SWEET NITRE."

The *Medical Times*, in commenting upon this letter, thinks that "the Chemist's conclusions are no less difficult to swallow than the cheap abomination which he would have us believe is a favourite stimulant with the British public." The subject of methylated spirit is said to have had the most careful attention of the Inland Revenue Commissioners. When the Legislature decided to permit the use of this spirit duty free in arts and manufactures, that the manufacturer might not be at a disadvantage as compared with the foreigner, it was probably understood that the continuance of this permission must be contingent on the safety of the revenue derived from spirits; and in his report of June, 1863, Mr. Phillips, principal of the Laboratory, states to the Commissioners that as yet no effort to obtain a potable spirit from methylated alcohol has succeeded. It is true that a patent has lately been granted for a process which professes not only to accomplish this object, but to render wood spirit itself potable, and that, too, at a cost almost nominal; and it is not surprising, says Mr. Phillips, that it has afforded matter for earnest discussion among some of our leading pharmacologists, who, anxious to preserve the integrity of medicinal preparations, have not unreasonably been alarmed by the assertion that wood spirit can be so far defecated as to render it almost indistinguishable from vinous alcohol, and by the exhibition of specimens of such spirit which might be used, instead of spirits of wine, for pharmaceutical purposes. But after a series of experiments he has not been able by the process indicated to render either methylated or wood spirit potable; and to render it as palatable as those spirits which have been exhibited it was found necessary to submit it to numerous successive distillations, which from their costliness could not be applied profitably on a commercial scale, and even then the products possessed, as did the spirits exhibited, the character of wood spirit, although much subdued, and were in his opinion wholly useless for potable purposes. He expresses a strong conviction, based upon long experience, that the revenue is much less liable to be injured by the abuse of the permission to use duty-free methylated spirit than it is by ordinary illicit distillation. If rendered potable, which he says has not yet been done, it would be much inferior to the spirit produced by ordinary illicit distillation; and if it could be made equal to illicit spirit, it would be by more costly apparatus and cumbersome operations more difficult to conceal upon expensive materials. The Commisioners state in their report just issued that the attempts which have been made, hitherto unsuccessfully, to purify methylated spirit so as to render it potable confirm them in the belief that they have nothing to fear on that score.

GOSSIP.

Our weekly contemporary *The Grocer* has lately started a publication called *The Wine Trade Review*. This is presented on the third Saturday of every month to the subscribers of *The Grocer*, who also receive on the first Saturday of the month the publication called *The Oil Trade Review*.

The Company of African Merchants and the London and African Trading Company have both been successfully launched, and are issuing their certificates. The latter seems to have met with immense success, and already commands a high position in the market, the shares being quoted at 2½ to 3 prem.

A limited liability company is in course of formation for the manufacture of patent incombustible starch under the patent of Mr. J. S. Matthews, with a capital of £100,000, in shares of £5 each. The company will follow up the manufacture at the premises in Hoxton. It was this starch which was used by Professor Pepper for the striking experiments described in our March number.

The prospectus has been issued of the Tobacco, Cigar, and Snuff Company (Limited), with a capital of £100,000, in shares of £5 each. The company propose to import at a reduced rate, under the new tariff, and to deal generally in manufactured and unmanufactured tobaccos.

The *Canadian Lancet*—an admirable little journal, edited by Dr. W. E. Bowman, of Montreal—has reached its sixth monthly number, and we trust it is now firmly established. Upwards of 3,000 medical men in Great Britain have received the last number.

The Direction of the English and Irish Bank has been strengthened by the election of Mr. William Vaughan Morgan, the senior member of the well-known firm of Morgan Brothers. With Sir Robert Carden for Chairman, the Lord Mayor for Deputy, supported by colleagues of large mercantile experience, and an ample capital, this Bank would seem to have a successful future in store, and is reported to be rapidly progressing.

The *New York Times* of the 5th ult. gives a list of forty-seven inquests, held by coroners on the previous day, on persons who had been sun-struck. Most of them were natives of Ireland.

Arrangements are being made for an International Exhibition to be held in 1866 at Vienna. Those who remember the admirable display made by Austria at South Kensington will receive this news with gladness. The Chemical products shown in the Austrian Court were particularly remarkable both for novelty and excellence.

The *Progrès de Lyon* records the death of a lady from the effects of chloroform while undergoing a surgical operation.

During the past year great alterations were made by Foreign Governments in their tariffs. France lowered her rates upon various Chemicals.

When Nana Sahib was captured the following poisons and drugs were found in his possession:—White arsenic, yellow arsenic, opium, tin and mercury prepared, red oxide of mercury, orpiment, scamonium, bhang, ajwan and black pepper, poppy seeds, indigo, frankincense, sulphur, aloes, camphor, catechu, poppy heads bruised, cardamoms, alum, lead, earth used by goldsmiths, pills (composition unknown), black pepper, mussallah, rosin, snuff, beads, string worn by Brahmins, salt, sugar, tobacco, bhillaun, white sandalwood, attah.

The other day, a labouring man from Worplesdon called upon a Chemist in Guildford, and gravely informed him that his wife had been bewitched two years ago, and that she had remained in that state ever since, much to the grief of her husband and family, and annoyance of her neighbours. He said that he had been informed that if he got ½lb. of mercury and mixed it with the yelk of two eggs, and gave a dose to his wife night and morning, in water "over which the living and the dead had been carried," she would soon recover. Of course, the Chemist tried to ridicule him out of his silly notion; but the foolish man went away as fully persuaded as before that his wife was bewitched, and avowing his intention of getting the mercury and the water before he quitted Guildford.

The increase of the petroleum trade rapidly continues. According to the last accounts, the shipments from New York since the beginning of the present year have reached 13,500,000 gallons, valued at £1,000,000; while those from Philadelphia have been about 4,000,000 gallons, valued at £200,000, a large proportion of the crude oil being sent thence. Boston also has despatched 1,5000,000 gallons, and Baltimore 750,000 gallons, making a total of nearly 20,000,000 gallons in less than eight months.

The Metropolitan Board of Works have accepted the offer of the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital to purchase for £95,000 the ground on the southern embankment opposite the Houses of Parliament, as a site for the new hospital. The extent of the ground is 8½ acres.

Mr. J. C. Braithwaite, formerly principal Instructor in the Laboratories of the Pharmaceutical Society, is now devoting his whole attention to Education. From the 1st of October next his Laboratory will be opened daily for instruction in Practical Chemistry. Classes for the study of Chemistry and Toxicology, Botany and Materia Medica, and Latin, meet at his house, in the Kentish Town-road, on different evenings. Mr. Braithwaite's great reputation as a teacher of Pharmaceutical science will doubtless bring him as many pupils as he is prepared to receive.

Our esteemed contributor Mr. Barnard S. Proctor read a paper "On the Focal Adjustment of the Eye," before the Mechanical and Physical Science Section of the British Association.

GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

Dixon, William, Southampton, chemist.

Glass, George Michael, Brandon-street, Walworth, and Binfield-place, Clapham-road, gelatine manufacturer.

Pugh, Hugh Meyricke, Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire, chemist.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Thurgar and Co., Norwich, baking powder manufacturers.

Westwood, R. and W. H., and T. Hopkins, Newgate-street, wholesale chemists; as far as regards W. H. Westwood.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

Gilmour, A. G., and Co., Glasgow, chemists.

Correspondence

TRADE SWINDLING.

Glasgow, September 7th, 1863.

Sir,—I think the gentleman who signed himself "J. W. N." in your last number deserves the thanks of the trade for his exposure of a swindle.

About a fortnight ago, I received a visit from an individual who stated that he would require his ship's medicine chest fitted up in a few days, and would feel obliged if I could supply him with half a gross of light india-rubber goods next day. At once suspecting him, I dismissed him with rather less urbanity than is my wont, and waited the arrival of his friend, who sure enough came in about a quarter of an hour, and after offering various articles for sale, produced the things wanted by my previous customer.

Instead of purchasing, however, I politely asked him if he had seen the CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST for August; and on his answering in the negative, I expressed my regret that I had just lent my copy to a friend, or I should have been happy to have favoured him with a sight of a letter exposing himself and the "Captain," from whom I had just received a visit and rather unceremoniously dismissed. I need scarcely say that he beat a precipitate retreat, apparently feeling "sold" without having effected a *sale*.

As I understand there are other swindlers going regularly about, it would be a good plan for Chemists upon whom they have called to expose them in your journal. I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,
T. D. M.

44, Brownlow-hill, Liverpool,
September 3rd, 1863.

SIR,—Referring to the letter inserted in your last Circular headed as above, and signed "J. W. N.," we think it only due to the public and to ourselves to state that our firm know nothing whatever either of the article alluded to, or of the "Gorfinkle" named in it.

Our firm is so well known in Liverpool and the vicinity, that we have no fear of being compromised there by the name which so much resembles ours; but, as there is the possibility of the trade in other districts, on being presented with our Circular, associating the two names (although ours is spelt differently), we shall feel obliged by your insertion of this in your next publication,

And remain,
Yours respectfully,
J. GORFENKLE & Co.

THE BILL OF WRONGS.

Rye, Sept. 1863.

SIR,—I have perused in your Journal the amendments of the Medical Council, a knowledge of which I had previously acquired through a communication from our energetic Secretary. As I have been a supporter of the United Society from its commencement, also one of the General Committee, I felt it incumbent on me to endeavour to do a small share, if possible, to assist the Executive in promoting its interests on the above question. I have waited on several Chemists in this locality, some of whom are members of the Pharmaceutical, others of the United Society; all of whom are utterly disgusted with and entirely opposed to such an unparalleled invasion of legal rights. One gentleman almost promised to leave the former to join the latter, feeling the benefits we already enjoy to more than surpass their exertions of a quarter of a century. I do not wish to underrate the value of the Pharmaceutical Society; but at the same time I must maintain, that there are many Chemists who are much more qualified to carry on the legitimate business of a Chemist and Druggist than some who style themselves M.P.S. If the above amendments were to become law, it would extinguish the life-flame of many a hoary-headed citizen who has striven hard to resist the inroads of misfortune and ill health, and annihilate the blooming prospects of many thousands of educated, scientific, and enterprising men of all ages. Such can never be: an interference with the vested interests and private possessions of some 30,000 of Her Majesty's subjects is not to be tolerated. I believe the general public would rise to assert our rights. I hope we shall not content ourselves by looking on this matter with the contempt it deserves, but bestir ourselves, and let others see that the iron rod of despotism will not fall without resistance. At the same time, I would urge on all the necessity of co-operation, and the benefit of becoming members of the United Society, and sharing its privileges and protective advantages.

I am, Sir,
Yours obediently,
AMICUS.

NOTES AND DISCOVERIES

Petroleum in Surgery.—An assistant-surgeon, writing from Gettysburg, says:—"Will you allow me, as one alleviation of the horrors of the battle-field, to call your attention to the use of coal-oil in suppurating wounds? As volunteer assistant, I received permission from the surgeons of the first division of the fifth corps, Gettysburg, to use it in the most offensive cases. By its manifest utility and the solicitations of the wounded, I was induced to enlarge its use, until I became satisfied that what cold water is to a wound in its inflamed state, coal-oil is to it in its suppurating state,—dispelling flies, expelling vermin, sweetening the wound, and promoting healthy granulations. It can be used by an assistant of ordinary judgment with perfect safety, and to the great comfort of the patient. I have seen two patients whose wounds had been dressed with it asleep before I was through with the third."

TRADE REPORT.

London, September 12.

THE business in Chemicals during the past month has been to a fair extent, without much change in prices. A moderate demand has been experienced for Tartaric Acid, and the price is steady at 1*s.* 5½*d.* Several sales have been effected in Citric Acid at 1*s.* 5¼*d.* to 1*s.* 5½*d.* Iodine is more in demand, and the price remains fixed at 4½*d.* to 4¾*d.* per oz. Bichromate continues dull at 8¾*d.* to 9*d.*, and Prussiate of Potass at 11½*d.* to 11¾*d.* A few sales have been made in Chlorate of Potass at 11*d.* to 11½*d.* More business done in Alum, and the price is firm at £7 in casks and £7 5*s.* in barrels. A good business done in Sulphate of Quinine at 6*s.* for French, and 6*s.* 3*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* for English. Oxalic Acid has been sold to a fair extent at 8*d.* to 8¼*d.* Several small sales have been made in Sal Acetos at 10½*d.* Soda Ash is quiet at 2*d.* per degree. A good business has been done in Cream Tartar, and the price is now firm at 112*s.* 6*d.* Sulphate of Ammonia is quiet at 13*s.* 6*d.* to 14*s.* A good business has been done in Sulphate of Copper at 30*s.* 6*d.* to 32*s.* Sal Ammoniac is quiet at 35*s.* to 37*s.* 6*d.*, according to quality. Linseed Oil is dull, and the price is now 43*s.* on the spot, and 41*s.* 6*d.* to 42*s.* for the month. Rape is rather better—Foreign Brown 42*s.* 6*d.*, and Refined 45*s.* 6*d.* Turpentine declined to 63*s.* to 64*s.*, owing to forced speculative sales, but has lately advanced 10*s.*, and is now firm at 74*s.* to 75*s.* on the spot, and 73*s.* to 74*s.* for arrival. Rosin is rather better. Petroleum is much better—Crude is now held for £21 10*s.* to £22; Refined is firm at 2*s.* 7*d.* to 2*s.* 7½*d.* on the spot, and 2*s.* 9*d.* prices for December; also 2*s.* 5*d.* for the past three months. Ashes are without change.

In Drugs the sales have been moderate, and prices generally show a slight improvement. Turmeric advanced from 30*s.* to 40*s.*, afterwards declined to 32*s.*, and closed steady at 33*s.* to 34*s.* for good Bengal. Cod Liver Oil is scarce, and the price advanced to 12*s.* to 13*s.* 6*d.*, at which rates business has been done. Castor Oil is rather dearer, pale to first quality selling at 4¾*d.* to 6*d.* Oil of Cassia is dearer; sales made at 8*s.* 2*d.* Oil Aniseed is also higher; last sales at 6*s.* 1*d.* Citronelle steady at 4¾*d.* to 5*d.* Tinnivelly Senna is without change; ord. to mid. sold at 3½*d.* to 6*d.*, good and fine 10*d.* to 1*s.* 2*d.* Bombay and Alexandria unaltered. East India Arabic is dearer, and in demand; Turkey sorts are also dearer; no change in other kinds. Plumbago is much dearer; some good parcels sold at 32*s.* to 33s. Small sales of fine Turkey Opium made at 18*s.* 6*d.* to 19*s.* Cubebs are held for 110*s.* Jamaica Beeswax sells steadily at £8 10*s.* to £8 17*s.* 6*d.* Sarsaparilla is without change. Gambier is dearer. Cutch remains quiet. Small sales of Jamaica Logwood made at 80*s.* Cardamoms are dull. Large sales of Japan Wax have been made at 42*s.* for block. Camphor is lower; sales of China and Japan at £7 12*s.* 6*d.*

PRICE CURRENT.

☞ *These quotations are the latest for* ACTUAL SALES *in Mincing Lane. It will be necessary for our retail subscribers to bear in mind that they cannot, as a rule, purchase at the prices quoted, inasmuch as these are the* CASH PRICES IN BULK. *They will, however, be able to form a tolerably correct idea of what they ought to pay.*

	1863.				1862.			
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
ARGOL, Cape, pr ct.	85	0	100	0	90	0	100	0
French	40	0	..60	0	30	0	..60	0
Oporto, red	45	0	..47	0	45	0	..48	0
Sicily.............	70	0	..75	0	70	0	..80	0
Naples, white.....	65	0	..80	0	65	0	..80	0
Florence, white...	87	6	95	0	90	0	100	0
red....	80	0	..85	0	85	0	..87	6
Bologna, white....	110	0	115	0	115	0	120	0
ARROWROOT, duty 4½ per cwt.								
Bermuda ...per lb.	1	10	.. 2	1	0	11..	1	3
St. Vincent........	0	6½..	0	8½	0	3..	0	6
Jamaica.	0	5½..	0	7	0	2½	0	4
Other West India.	0	5½..	0	6	0	2¼	0	3¼
Brazil............	0	3½..	0	4	0	1½	0	2
East India........	0	3½..	0	4½	0	1½	0	2½
Natal	0	6 ..	0	10	0	2½	0	7½
Sierra Leone......	0	5¼..	0	5¾	0	2½	0	3
ASHES....per cwt.								
Pot, Canada, 1st sort	31	0	..31	6	34	6..	0	0
Pearl, do. 1st sort.	31	0	..32	0	35	0..	0	0

	1863.				1862.			
BRIMSTONE,	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
rough......per ton	135	0	140	0	135	0..	0	0
roll...............	165	0	180	0	200	0	0	0
flour..............	220	0	260	0	260	0	280	0
CHEMICALS,								
Acid—Acetic, pr lb	0	3½..	0	0	0	4..	0	4½
Citric	1	5½..	0	0	1	8..	0	0
Nitric	0	5 ..	0	5½	0	4½	0	5
Oxalic	0	8 ..	0	8¼	0	8½	0	9
Sulphuric	0	0⅝..	0	0	0	0¾	0	0
Tartaric crystl	1	5½..	0	0	1	7¾	1	8
powdered.	1	6 ..	0	0	1	8½	1	9
Alum .....per ton.	140	0	145	0	130	0	135	0
powder	155	0 ..	0	0	145	0..	0	0
Ammonia. Crb. lb.	0	5 ..	0	0	0	5½	0	6
Sulphate per ton	280	0	300	0	270	0	290	0
Antimony, ore....	200	0	230	0	200	0	240	0
crude, per cwt	22	0	..23	0	24	0	..28	0
regulus	40	0 ..	0	0	43	0	..44	0
French star...	39	0 ..	0	0	44	0..	0	0
Arsenic, lump....	16	0	..17	0	17	0	..18	6

PRICE CURRENT—*continued.*

	1863.				1862.			
CHEMICALS.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Arsenic powder ..	6	6	..7	0	7	6	..8	0
Bleaching Powder.	9	6	..10	0	9	0	..10	0
Borax, E. I. rcfind	0	0	..0	0	52	6	..0	0
British........	56	0	..0	0	50	0	..0	0
Calomel....per lb.	2	9	..0	0	2	9	..0	0
Camphor, refined.	1	10	..2	3	3	4	..4	4
Copras. grn. pr. tn.	57	6	..60	0	65	0	..0	0
Crrsiv. Sublmte. lb	1	11	..0	0	1	11	..2	0
Green Emrld. pr.lb	0	0	..0	0	0	9	..0	11
Brunswk. cwt.	0	0	..0	0	14	0	..42	0
Iodine, dry, pr. oz.	0	4½	..0	4¾	0	5½	0	6
Magnesia Crbn. ct.	42	6	..45	0	42	6	..45	0
Calcined, lb...	1	6	..1	8	1	6	..0	0
Minium red,pr.ct.	21	3	..21	6	21	6	..23	0
orange........	32	0	..33	0	33	0	..34	0
Ptsh. Bichrom. lb.	0	8¾	..0	9	0	7½	0	8½
Chlorate	0	11¼	..0	0	1	2	0	0
Hydriodate oz.	0	4½	..0	5	0	5½	0	6
Prussiate ..lb.	0	11½	..1	0	1	0	1	0½
red..	1	11	..0	0	2	2	..0	0
Precipit. red pr. lb	2	9	..0	0	2	9	..2	10
white...	2	9	..2	10	2	10	..0	0
Prussian Blue.....	1	0	..1	10	1	6	..1	10
Rose Pink....pr ct.	29	0	..0	0	29	0	..30	0
Sal-Acetos...pr lb.	0	10¼	..0	10¾	0	10½	0	0
Ammoniac, ct.								
British...	35	0	..37	6	36	0	..38	0
Epsom........	8	0	..8	6	8	3	..8	6
Glauber	4	6	..5	6	5	6	..0	0
Soda, Ash, pr deg..	0	2	..0	0	0	2⅛	0	0
Bicarbonate..ct.	12	0	..13	0	12	6	..13	0
Crystals per ton.	95	0	..0	0	90	0	100	0
Sgr. Lead, whte, ct.	37	0	..0	0	37	0	..0	0
brown........	25	0	..0	0	25	0	..0	0
Slphte. Quinine oz								
Britsh in bttl.	6	6	..0	0	7	9	..8	0
Foreign	6	3	..0	0	7	6	..0	0
Sulpht. Zinc..cwt.	14	6	..15	0	14	6	..15	0
Verdigris........lb.	0	10½	..1	0	1	3	..1	5
Vermilion, English	2	8	..3	0	2	8	..3	1
China..	2	0	..2	1	2	3	..2	4
Vtrl. blue or Romn.								
per cwt.	30	0	..31	0	33	0	..35	0
COCHINEAL, pr. lb.								
Honduras, black..	2	15	..4	3	2	6	..4	2
silver...	1	8	..3	6	1	3	..3	4
Mexican, black....	2	10	..3	2	2	7	..3	0
silver ..	2	8	..2	10	2	5	..2	6
Lima	2	8	..3	1	2	8	..3	0
Teneriffe, black ..	3	0	..3	4	2	7	..3	4
silver ..	2	10	..3	0	2	6	..2	7
DRUGS,								
Aloes, Hepatic, ct.	100	0	180	0	135	0	200	0
Socotrine	120	0	280	0	160	0	480	0
Cape, good....	42	0	..45	0	38	0	..43	0
inferior.	26	0	..40	0	20	0	..36	0
Barbadoes....	50	0	360	0	60	0	420	0
Ambergris, gray.								
per oz..	15	0	..20	0	30	0	..35	0
Angelica Root, ct..	20	0	..35	0	20	0	..35	0
Aniseed, China str.	110	0	115	0	80	0	..85	0
German, &c.	19	0	..38	0	20	0	..40	0
Balsam Canada, lb	1	0	..0	0	1	4	..0	0
Capivi......	1	3½	..1	5	1	7	..1	8
Peru........	4	9	..4	10	5	0	..5	2
Tolu	4	4	..4	5	4	0	..4	1
Bark Cascarilla ct.	25	0	..40	0	23	0	..40	0
Peru crown & grey								
per lb	0	10	..2	2	1	0	..2	4
Calisaya. flat...	3	6	..3	8	4	3	..4	6
quill....	3	0	..3	4	3	9	..4	2
Carthagena....	1	2	..1	8	1	3	..2	6
Pitayo........	1	7	..2	6	1	10	..2	9
Red	2	6	..8	0	2	6	..6	6
Bay Berries, pr ct..	22	0	..40	0	22	0	..40	0
Bucca Leaves, lb.	0	2½	..1	6	0	3	1	6
Camomile Flowers	25	0	..65	0	50	0	..75	0
Camphor, China..	147	6	155	0	340	0	350	0
Canella Alba......	19	0	..38	0	19	0	..40	0
Cantharides, pr lb.	2	0	..2	3	3	0	..3	3
Cardamoms. Mlbar.								
good............	5	3	..6	0	6	0	..6	8

	1863.				1862.			
DRUGS.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Cardamoms, inferior	4	9	..5	0	5	0	..6	0
Madras..	3	5	..5	3	3	3	..5	0
Ceylon..	4	3	..4	7	4	3	..4	6
CassiaFistula pr ct.	20	0	..45	0	15	0	..25	0
CastorOil, 1stpale, lb	0	5¾	..0	6¼	0	7¼	0	7½
second......	0	4¾	..0	5½	0	6¾	0	7½
infr. & dark	0	4¼	..0	4½	0	6¼	0	6½
Bombay. in csks.	0	4	..0	4¾	0	5¾	0	6
Castorum	1	0	..20	0	1	0	..26	0
China Root, pr ct.	12	0	..15	0	12	0	..15	0
Coculus Indicus ..	11	0	..13	0	11	0	..15	0
Cod-liver Oil, gal...	11	0	..13	6	4	2	. 6	0
Clcynth. apple, lb..	0	7	..1	0	0	7	..1	0
Colombo Rt. pr ct..	50	0	..75	0	20	0	..52	0
Cream Tartar, pr ct.								
French	112	6	..0	0	120	0	..0	0
Venetian	112	6	0	0	120	0	..0	0
grey	100	0	105	0	112	6	115	0
brown........	97	6	102	6	105	0	110	0
Croton Seed	50	0	..55	0	45	0	65	0
Cubebs	110	0	0	0	130	0	..0	0
Cummin Seed	26	0	..35	0	39	0	..41	0
Dragon's bld. reed.	200	0	300	0	200	0	300	0
lump...	95	0	260	0	130	0	200	0
Galangal Root....	18	0	..20	0	25	0	..35	0
Gentian Root	18	0	..19	0	20	0	..22	0
Guinea Grains, ...								
per cwt.	70	0	..72	6	48	0	..50	0
Honey, Narbonne.	50	0	..80	0	60	0	..85	0
Cuba	24	0	..36	0	24	0	..36	0
Jamaica....	20	0	..65	0	28	0	..60	0
Ipecacuanha, pr.lb.	6	6	. 6	7	7	0	..7	9
Isinglass, Brazil...	0	10	..3	8	0	10	..3	7
East India......	0	9	..3	0	0	6	..3	6
West India	3	0	..3	0	3	0	..3	6
Russian........	9	6	..13	0	9	6	..13	0
Jalap	0	10	..4	4	1	9	..5	2
Jniper Berries cwt.								
German & Frnch	8	0	..9	0	9	0	..11	0
Italian	8	0	..10	0	10	0	..12	0
LmonJuice, pr deg.	0	0½	..0	0	0	0¾	0	0⅞
Liquorice, per cwt.								
Spanish	80	0	..83	0	83	0	..90	0
Italian	80	0	..85	0	85	0	..95	0
Manna, flaky	3	4	..3	6	2	0	..2	6
small	1	6	..0	0	1	6	..1	9
Musk......per oz.	17	0	. 27	0	20	0	..28	0
Nux Vomica......	10	6	..12	6	8	6	..9	0
Opium, Turkey ..	17	6	..19	0	19	0	..20	0
Egyptian..	8	0	..11	6	7	6	..12	6
Orris Root, pr cwt.	26	0	..30	0	27	0	..30	0
Pink Root, per lb...	2	9	..3	0	1	9	..2	2
Quassia(bit. wd)ton	170	0	190	0	90	0	115	0
Rhatania Root, lb.	0	8	..2	1	0	9	..1	6
Rhbrb. China, rnd.	1	6	..4	0	1	0	..4	0
flat	1	8	..4	3	1	2	..4	3
Dutch, trmd.	5	6	..6	0	3	6	..4	9
Russian	12	6	..13	0	7	6	..10	0
Saffron, Spanish ..	40	0	..42	0	46	0	..47	0
Salep ....per cwt.	130	0	140	0	140	0	160	0
Sarsaparilla, Lima	0	10	..1	4	0	9	..1	3
Para	0	9	..1	1	0	10	..1	2
Honduras.	0	8	..1	3	0	10	..1	4
Jamaica..	1	2	..2	2	1	5	..2	8
Sassafras..per cwt.	0	0	..0	0	11	0	..12	0
Scammony. per lb.								
virgin....	27	0	..36	0	28	0	..36	0
second ..	12	0	..23	0	14	0	..24	0
Seneka Root......	3	3	..3	6	4	6	..4	9
Senna, Calcutta ..	0	0	..0	0	0	2	..0	2½
Bombay	0	2	..0	3½	0	2½	0	3¾
Tinnevelly..	0	3	..1	4	0	4	1	6½
Alexandria	0	3½	..0	8	0	3½	0	6
Snake Root	2	9	..3	0	2	6	..2	9
Spermaceti, refined	1	0	..1	0½	1	0	..1	2
Squills	0	1½	..0	2½	0	1	..0	2
Tamarinds, E. Ind.	12	0	..13	6	12	6	..14	0
W.I. per cwt.	17	0	..27	0	15	0	..38	0
Terra Japonica—								
Gambier, cwt ..	22	0	..25	0	26	0	..27	0
Cutch, cwt	24	0	..25	0	28	0	..29	0
Valerian Root, Eng	20	0	..40	0	20	0	..40	0

PRICE CURRENT—*continued.*

	1863.				1862.			
DRUGS.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Vanilla, Mexican lb	18	0	..30	0	25	0	..55	0
Wormseed, pr cwt.	2	0	.. 0	0	2	0	.. 0	0
GUM...... per cwt.								
Ammoniac, drop..	100	0	120	0	100	0	125	0
lump ..	15	0	..65	0	15	0	..70	0
Animi fine pale ..	220	0	250	0	290	0	320	0
bold amber.	190	0	210	0	220	0	270	0
medium....	160	0	280	0	160	0	180	0
small & dark	100	0	155	0	120	0	160	0
ordinry dark	50	0	..95	0	40	0	..90	0
Arab.E.I.f.palepkd	58	0	..65	0	50	0	..58	0
unsortd, good to f	38	0	..56	0	32	0	..42	0
red and mixed	20	0	..30	0	28	0	..30	0
siftings	15	0	..30	0	18	0	..23	0
Turkey, pkd. gd to f.	115	0	180	0	120	0	180	0
second & infr.	50	0	110	0	48	0	110	0
in sorts	32	0	..50	0	30	0	..42	0
Gedda............	29	0	..33	0	26	0	..28	0
Barbary, white ..	52	0	..58	0	31	0	..40	0
brown ..	36	0	..38	0	27	0	..35	0
Australian...... .	26	0	..28	0	24	0	..25	0
Assafœt. fr. to gd.	30	0	112	6	40	0	110	0
Benjamin, 1st. qual.	350	0	630	0	400	0	560	0
2nd qual	280	0	300	0	260	0	330	0
3rd ,,	50	0	240	0	60	0	180	0
Copal, Angola red.	90	0	95	0	100	0	110	0
pale.	85	0	100	0	95	0	100	0
Benguela....	75	0	90	0	105	0	130	0
Sierra Lne lb	0	4	.. 1	6	0	9	.. 1	10
Manilla pr ct	22	0	..44	6	20	0	..44	0
Dammar ple. pr ct	36	0	..46	0	44	0	..47	0
Galbanum........	100	0	120	0	100	0	120	0
Gmbge. pkd. pipe	160	0	190	0	140	0	180	0
in sorts.....	90	0	150	0	80	0	110	0
Guaiacum ..pr. lb.	0	6	.. 1	5	0	6	.. 1	6
Kino ....per cwt.	300	0	.. 0	0	260	0	280	0
Kowrie...........	36	0	..45	0	23	0	..25	0
Mstic. pkd. pr lb..	5	0	.. 6	0	5	0	.. 5	6
Myrrh gd & fi pr ct	150	0	170	0	160	0	180	0
sorts........	70	0	130	0	70	0	130	0
Olibanum, pl. drop	76	0	..85	0	54	0	..67	0
ambr & yel.	48	0	..70	0	44	0	..50	0
mixd. & dk.	16	0	..35	0	12	0	..35	0
Senegal	48	0	..50	0	38	0	..40	0
Sandrac..........	82	0	107	6	76	0	100	0
Tragacanth, leaf..	180	0	300	0	180	0	320	0
in sorts.	100	0	130	0	100	0	130	0
OILS......per tun.	£	*s.*	£	*s.*	£	*s.*	£	*s.*
Seal	40	0	..46	0	37	0	..48	0
Sperm, body......	80	0	.. 0	0	85	0	.. 0	0
Cod...............	55	10	..56	0	44	0	..45	0
Whale, Greenland.	0	0	.. 0	0	0	0	.. 0	0
Sth Sea pale	42	10	..43	0	39	0	..41	10
E. I. Fish...	38	10	.. 0	0	37	10	..38	0
Olive, Galipoli, ton.	59	0	..60	0	56	10	..57	10
Florence, ½-chst.	1	0	.. 1	1	22	0	.. 0	0
Cocoant. Cochn. tn	46	6	..47	0	56	0	.. 0	0
Ceylon	45	0	.. 0	0	53	6	..54	0
Sydney	40	0	..44	6	46	0	..53	6
Ground Nut & Gin.								
Bombay........	42	0	.. 0	0	49	0	.. 0	0
Madras	44	0	.. 0	0	50	0	..50	10
Palm, fine........	35	6	..36	0	42	10	..43	0
Linseed..........	43	0	.. 0	0	40	0	..42	6
Rapesd. Engl. pale	44	6	.. 0	0	51	0	.. 0	0
brown.......	42	6	.. 0	0	48	10	.. 0	0
Foreign do ..	45	6	.. 0	0	50	10	..51	0
brown......	42	6	.. 0	0	49	10	..50	0
Lard	45	0	..46	0	49	0	..50	0
Tallow	39	0	..40	0	40	0	..41	0
Rock Crude	21	10	..22	0	13	0	..13	10
OILS, Essential—	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Almond essen. lb.	19	0	.. 0	0	19	0	.. 0	0
expressed ..	0	0	.. 0	0	1	0	.. 0	0
Aniseed..........	6	1	.. 0	0	6	5	.. 6	6
Bay.......pr cwt.	110	0	120	0	110	0	120	0
Bergamott pr lb.	7	0	.10	6	5	6	..12	0
Cajeputa, bond, oz.	0	2¼	.. 0	2¾	0	1½	0	3
Caraway....pr lb.	4	3	.. 5	6	4	3	.. 6	0
Cassia	8	2	.. 0	0	9	5	.. 9	6
Cinamon (in b), oz	1	6	.. 3	6	1	4	.. 4	0
Cinnamon Leaf...	0	2	.. 0	4½	0	2	.. 0	4
Citronel..........	0	4¾	.. 0	5	0	5¼	.. 0	6

	1863.				1862.			
OILS.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Clove	0	2	.. 0	4	0	4	0	0
Croton	0	0	.. 0	0	0	3	0	4
Juniper ....per lb.	1	10	.. 3	0	1	10	.. 3	0
Lavender	2	6	.. 4	6	2	6	.. 5	0
Lemon	4	0	.. 9	0	4	0	.. 8	6
Lemongrass, pr oz	0	7½	.. 0	9	0	4	.. 0	6¼
Mace, ex	0	1½	.. 0	2	0	1½	0	2
Neroli............	5	0	.. 7	0	6	0	.. 9	0
Nutmeg..........	0	1	.. 0	2	0	1½	0	2
Orange ....per lb.	5	0	.. 6	6	5	0	.. 7	0
Otto Roses, per oz.	14	0	..22	0	15	0	..24	0
Peppermint, pr lb.								
American	8	6	..16	0	7	0	..13	3
English	33	0	..36	0	32	0	..34	0
Rhodium ..per oz.	3	6	.. 5	6	3	9	.. 6	0
Rosemary..per lb.	1	8	.. 3	0	1	10	.. 3	0
Sassafras	3	6	.. 4	0	3	0	.. 4	0
Spearmint........	5	0	.. 8	6	5	0	..10	0
Spike	0	0	.. 0	0	1	3	.. 1	6
Thyme	1	9	.. 2	3	1	9	.. 2	3
PITCH, Brtsh, pr cwt.	12	0	.. 0	0	8	0	.. 0	0
Swedish	0	0	.. 0	0	10	6	..11	0
SALTPETRE, pr cwt.								
Bngl, 6 p.c. or under	37	6	..38	0	39	0	..40	0
over 6 per cent.	35	6	..36	6	37	0	..39	0
Madras	35	6	..37	0	36	0	..39	0
Bombay	34	0	..36	6	35	6	..37	0
British-refined....	40	6	..41	6	42	0	..43	0
Nitrate of Soda ..	15	6	..16	0	13	6	..14	0
SEED, Canary, pr qr.	38	0	..50	0	36	0	..54	0
Caraway, Eng, p. c.	28	0	..34	0	0	0	.. 0	0
German, &c	0	0	.. 0	0	0	0	.. 0	0
Coriander	0	0	.. 0	0	0	0	.. 0	0
East India......	0	0	.. 0	0	0	0	.. 0	0
Hemp............	0	0	.. 0	0	0	0	.. 0	0
Linseed, Black Sea	63	0	..64	0	64	0	..65	0
Calcutta........	64	0	..66	0	65	0	..66	0
Bombay........	70	0	..71	0	71	0	.. 0	0
Egyptian	62	0	..64	0	59	0	..60	0
Mustard, brn, p. bhl	0	0	.. 0	0	0	0	.. 0	0
white..	9	0	..12	0	8	0	.. 9	6
Poppy, E.I. per qr.	56	0	.. 0	0	58	0	..59	0
Rape, English	0	0	.. 0	0	0	0	.. 0	0
Danube	64	0	.. 0	0	71	0	..72	0
Calcutta, fine ..	55	0	..56	0	66	0	.. 0	0
Bombay........	64	0	..66	0	68	0	..74	0
Teel, Sesme or Gngy	60	0	..68	0	66	0	..73	0
Cotton ....per ton	157	6	160	0	175	0	190	0
Gnd. Nut Krnels, tn	340	0	.. 0	0	350	0	360	0
SOAP, Lnd. yel. pr ct.	22	0	..36	0	21	0	..36	0
mottled	36	0	..38	0	34	0	..36	0
curd........	50	0	.. 0	0	50	0	.. 0	0
Castile	40	0	..41	0	39	0	..40	0
Marseilles	40	0	..42	0	40	0	..41	6
SOY, China, per gal.	2	1	.. 2	3	2	6	.. 2	8
Japan	0	10	.. 1	0	0	8	.. 0	10
SPONGE, Turk. f. pkd	20	0	..24	0	20	0	..24	0
fair to good	8	0	..18	0	8	0	..18	0
ordinary..	3	0	.. 6	0	3	0	.. 6	0
Bahama ..	0	3	.. 1	3	0	4	.. 1	3
TURPENTINE,								
Rough..per cwt.	0	0	.. 0	0	0	0	.. 0	0
Spirits, French ..	74	0	..75	0	0	0	.. 0	0
American, incsks	0	0	0	0	130	0	.. 0	
WAX, Bees, English	170	0	175	0	172	6	175	0
German	162	6	180	0	175	0	180	0
American	165	0	175	0	160	0	170	0
white fine	0	0	.. 0	0	0	0	0	0
Jamaica	167	6	175	0	170	0	180	0
Gambia	170	0	175	0	175	0	0	0
Mogadore	130	0	155	0	125	0	160	0
East India........	140	0	180	0	140	0	170	0
ditto. bleached..	170	0	220	0	165	0	200	0
vegetable, Japan..	58	0	..68	0	70	0	..82	0
WOOD, DYE, per ton,								
Fustic, Cuba	145	0	155	0	145	0	160	0
Jamaica	120	0	140	0	110	0	115	0
Savanilla	115	0	.. 0	6	100	0	.. 0	0
Zante	0	0	.. 0	0	0	0	.. 0	0
Logwood, Cmpchy	185	0	200	0	190	0	200	0
Honduras	125	0	130	0	135	0	145	0
St. Domingo. ..	90	0	0	0	115	0	120	0
Jamaica........	80	0	..82	6	107	6	110	0